

SALUTING GONZALES COUNTY'S

**CLASS
OF 2023**

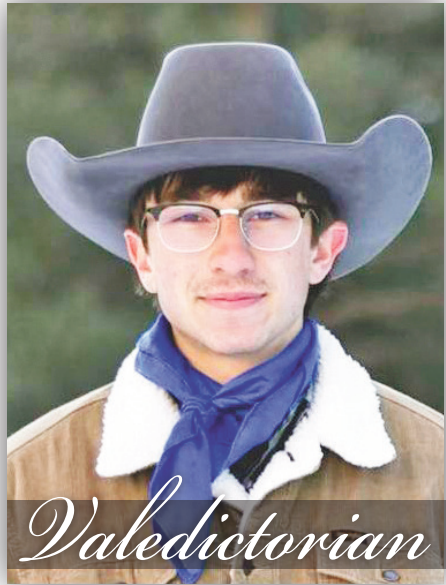
**HONORING THE
GRADUATES
FROM GONZALES,
NIXON-SMILEY,
SHINER ST. PAUL, AND
WAELDER HIGH SCHOOLS**

A PRODUCT OF
**The
Gonzalez Inquirer**

Head of the Class



GONZALES



Valedictorian

COOPER MARK LABUHN



Salutatorian

MARIA YUDITH VAZQUEZ.



NIXON-SMILEY



Valedictorian

CECILIA VILLASANA

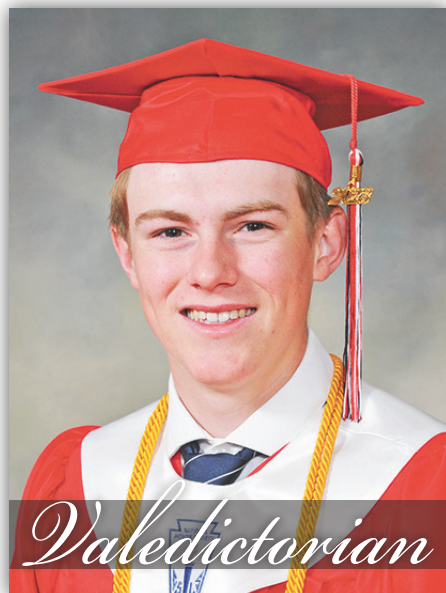


Salutatorian

JENNIFER VASQUEZ.

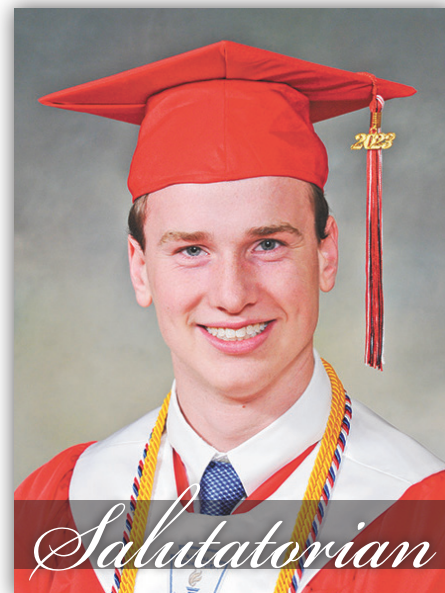


SHINER ST. PAUL



Valedictorian

JACOB WACHSMUTH



Salutatorian

JOSEPH TWYFORD



WAEOLDER



Valedictorian

ANGELA GUTIERREZ



Salutatorian

ELIZABETH GODINEZ



CLASS OF 2022
GONZALES HIGH



Ivan
Aguirre



Samantha
Alaniz



Christian
Almaguer



Yazmin
Almendarez



Logan
Alva



Israel
Alvarez



Daisy
Arevalo



Luke
Avant



Haley
Bairrington



Kristyn
Baker



Mariela
Balderas



Kyndall
Banda



Carla
Barrera



Christian
Barrera



Blayne
Belin



Jaydon
Blackwell



Aaliah
Bolden



Byron
Boothe



Andrea
Borjon



Leslie
Borjon



Brody
Borrer



Hadley
Borrer



Bryce
Brown



Bryan
Cabrera



Christian
Camarillo



Joe
Canales, Jr.



Justus
Cantu



Gage
Cardenas



Anahi
Cardona



Cristian
Cardoza



Yaqueline
Cardoza



Zaiden
Carranza



Christiny
Carrizales



Rafael
Castro
Garcia



Nohelia
Chavez



Heidi
Cleveland



Kassidy
Contreras



Ylaina
Cortes



Ethan
Crouch



Brayden
Davis



Marissa
Deleon



Mariana
Deleon



De'Adrain
Dilworth



Oce'Anna
Dyre



Riley
Eckols



JR
Edlridge, Jr.



Joshua
Esparza



Mariela
Fernandez



Ivan
Gallegos



Mercedes
Gallegos



Noraiyah
Gallegos



Hector
Gamez



CLASS OF 2023 GONZALES HIGH



Erika Garcia



Jose Garcia



Noe Garcia



Derrick Garza



Kobey Glass



Nayeli Godinez



Joseph Gold



Brenda Gonzalez



Jennifer Gonzalez



Jose Gonzalez



Michael Gonzalez



Philip Gonzales, Jr.



Tyrann Gonzales



Clemente Govea



Lucero Govea



Juan Granados Angel



Hemma Guevara



Christopher Hagans



Bethany Haile



Colby Heller



Emma Heller



Aidan Hernandez



Karisma Hernandez Yole



Edward Herrera



Oscar Herrera



McKenzie Hodges



Hayden Hull



Roman Ibarra



Jarren Johnson



Lauren Johnson



Kyleigh Kehoe-Grant



Zander Kluting



Dylan Krenmueller



Cooper LaBuhn



Kaylea Larsen



Karley Leal



Belen Leon



Faith Lester



Luis Llamas



Aubrey Lopez



Kael Lopez



Steven Maldonado



Julihanna Manuel



Alexzavier Martinez



Angel Martinez



Mackena Masias



Sebastian Matamoros



Darion Matehuala



Nyeshia Mayberry



Keelin McCoy



Rylan McGehee



Jadon Medina



Kaylynn Mendez



Brendon Mercer



Congratulations!
Haley Bairrington

We are all so proud of you!
 Can't wait to see your future accomplishments!

Love,
 Mimi, Bobo & Family




Congratulations!
Class of 2023

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Congratulations
 to all 2023 Graduates!!!!

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 Cell: (830)857-4896
 Shirley Hodges – Owner

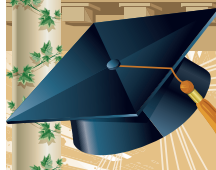


Congratulations


COOPER LABUHN

and all
 2023 graduates!

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McKenzie Faith Hodges
 Gonzales High School



Congratulations to our Gonzales Lady Apache Graduate and our future TCU-Horned Frog. We are so proud of all your accomplishments. Keep going after your dreams. Blessings for a wonderful future, Kenzie.

*We Love You,
 Nana, Dad, Uncle Kit, Aunt Rhonda and Krissy Jo*

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds families to save for higher education

Special to the Inquirer

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is encouraging families to save for their children's higher education expenses using the state's 529 college plans.

"As we come to the end of another school year, all of us with school-age children are reminded just how fast the time flies," Hegar said. "It's also a reminder that now is the perfect time to start saving for college by opening a 529 account, or even contributing to an existing plan. Families will find that when it comes to planning for their children's future education, starting early is key and every little bit adds up."

Texas offers three tax-advantaged 529 plans: the Texas College Savings Plan® (TCSP) and the LoneStar 529 Plan® (LS529), both college savings plans, and the Texas Tuition Promise Fund® (TTPF), a prepaid college tuition plan. The plans are known as 529 plans because they are authorized by Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

TCSP and LS529 allow families to save for college by investing in one or more portfolios, either by enrolling in TCSP directly or in LS529 through a financial adviser. The college savings plans may be used to pay for qualified education expenses at schools nationwide and even at some foreign schools. The college savings plans are open for enrollment year round.

TTPF helps families lock in today's rates for all or some future undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at any two- or four-year Texas public college or university, excluding medical and dental institutions. TTPF newborn enrollment is available through July 31 to lock in 2022-23 prices for children younger than one year of age; general enrollment begins Sept. 1 to lock in 2023-24 prices. Texas residency requirements apply.

The Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board administers all three 529 plans through the Comptroller's office.

For more information about the Texas 529 plans, visit [SaveNowForCollege.com](https://www.savewillforcollege.com) or call 800-445-GRAD (4723). Select Option 3 for the Texas College Savings Plan, Option 4 for the LoneStar 529 Plan or Option 5 for the Texas Tuition Promise Fund.





Debunking the non-traditional higher-education stigma

TEXAS NEWS SERVICE Special to the Inquirer

Many college students balance family and work responsibilities with academics - making non-traditional higher education a lifeline to a future degree and career. But high school counselors do not always encourage students to go that route.

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown boosted interest in distance learning, according to Sue Subocz, associate president and provost of Walden University.

Many students who transfer from community colleges to online learning, which opens up higher education to a group of people who might not otherwise get to participate, she said.

“Getting that foundation - really understanding - if

you’re going to make your way through the rest of the degree, it’s just going to facilitate that process of earning that bachelor’s later,” Subocz said. “You don’t have to start there to end there.”

Walden offers online nursing programs leading to bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees, Subocz said, positions that need filling in Texas, which is now short about 30,000 nurses - a number expected to double by 2032, according to the Texas Nursing Association.

Jacinto Ramos, who completed his Doctor of Education degree through Walden, said the college’s mission statement aligned with his lived experience and professional goals.

“I did have one semester where I fell off - life got so hectic - and I recall the phone calls I was getting from Walden personnel - checking in on me, making sure that I

was OK, so that social emotional support meant the world to me and helped me get back on track the very next semester,” Ramos said.

Subocz said there are still stigmas associated with non-traditional forms of higher education, even those schools are a significant contributor to a diverse and multicultural workforce population.

“You can start in a place where class size is often half, a third, a quarter of what you’re going to see at a university with highly qualified faculty and that it comes at about a tenth of the cost - it just makes you wonder why everyone doesn’t do it,” she said.

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, community college graduates dominate certain professional fields, including those of health and security - which includes 80% of all law enforcement officers, EMTs, and firefighters.



CLASS OF 2023 GONZALES HIGH



Cason
Moore



Gavilyn
Morales



Leonardo
Moreno



Kendra
Narro



Kendall
Narro



Jared
Navejar



Mason
Navejar



Nancy
Nino



Alexis
Ontiveros



Leslie
Orduna



Ana
Orozco



Diego
Ovalle



Alexa Padilla
Perez



Michael
Padilla



Dalton
Pape



Emmanuel
Perez



Jose Pizano
Guzman



Delanie
Ramirez



Carlee
Ramos



Jomar
Ramos



Miguel
Ramos
Torres



Yessica
Rangel
Romero



Ezequiel
Reyna



Aaron
Rivera



John
Rivera, Jr.



Amaya
Rodriguez



Ashley
Rosas



Eric
Rosas



Litzy
Rosas



Autumn
Rossi



Christian
Ruiz



Yoselin
Salazar



Daniel
Sanchez



Jason
Sanchez
Rosales



Julissa
Sanchez



Carlos
Santillan



Dustin
Schuette



Tyler
Shaver



Serenity
Shelton



Don'Asiah
Smith



Trinity
Smith



Kristopher
Sutton



Layne
Thiele



Kason
Ticken



Brenda
Torres



Brianna
Torres



Marrisona
Trice



Alyson
Urdiales



Billie Marie
Uribe



Ivanna
Vazquez



Maria
Vazquez



Yamileth
Vazquez De
La Rosa



CLASS OF 2023
GONZALES HIGH



Joshua Vega



Jose Velazquez



Carlos Verastegui



Aidan Vernor



Ivan Villarreal, Jr.



Omar Villarreal, Jr.



Dora Washington



Kylee Watson



Jonathan Weare



Colby Webb



Chrisean White



Kayden Wilke



Corben Wolff



Peyton Wyatt



John Ybarbo



Greg Yole



Madison York



Jose Zavala



Perla Zavala



Kamrynn Zella Pizano



Norma Zuniga

NOT PICTURED

Sasha Calzada
Aiden Camarillo
Vanessa Daniel
Sheray Dyre
Patience Ferguson
Damian Hernandez
Ravyn Lookabill
Niyahna Lowery

Juan Lopez Contreras
Dominic Morales
Aaliyah Tealer
Morgan Elizabeth Farrar
Raphael Ferch
Ariel Mitchell
Diego Adan Ramirez
Natalia Soto



Hats off to the graduating classes of 2023!

Study finds racial, gender gaps in students' college plans



**PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE
Special to the Inquirer**

A new survey of 25,000 high school seniors finds 74% say they want to go to college - but only 66% expect to enroll. The nonprofit YouthTruth found the 8% percent gap widens to 14% for Native American students, 10% for Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, 9% Hispanics, and 8% for African American students.

Que Dang, executive director of student equity and success at Pasadena City College, says COVID and the resulting job losses disproportionately hurt families of color - causing college dreams to suffer.

"A lot of it has to do with folks really struggling with different stresses that are

happening throughout their lives. So, it's not just around education, but it's around mental health, getting jobs; it's also around trying to provide for their families," Dang said.

To make it easier for students to afford to attend, all community colleges in California now have a Basic Needs Center that can help with rent, food and mental-health supports. There is also a statewide network of mentors, including some that specifically work with African American male students.

The survey also finds 83% of female high school seniors aspire to go to college, and 77% believe they can actually go - while only 68% of their male counterparts want to go to college, and just 57%

believe it is a real option. Part of the difference can be blamed on societal norms that discourage men from seeking help, according to Dang.

"A lot of them don't want to ask for help," Dang explained. "And so they don't seek out services in the same way as women. And there are so many support systems to help them get through college, but they have societal pressures, like men wanting to 'do it themselves.'"

The report also finds the percentage of seniors expecting to attend a four-year college has held steady at 46% over the last three years, and that Black students are increasingly under-represented on community college campuses.

**CONGRATULATIONS
JADON MEDINA**

We have never been more proud of you Jadon.

*We Love You!
Mom & Jr*

Leanna Green

Congratulations

CLASS OF 2023

D & D Liquor

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Cathy & John DuBose, Owners



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Without Us!**

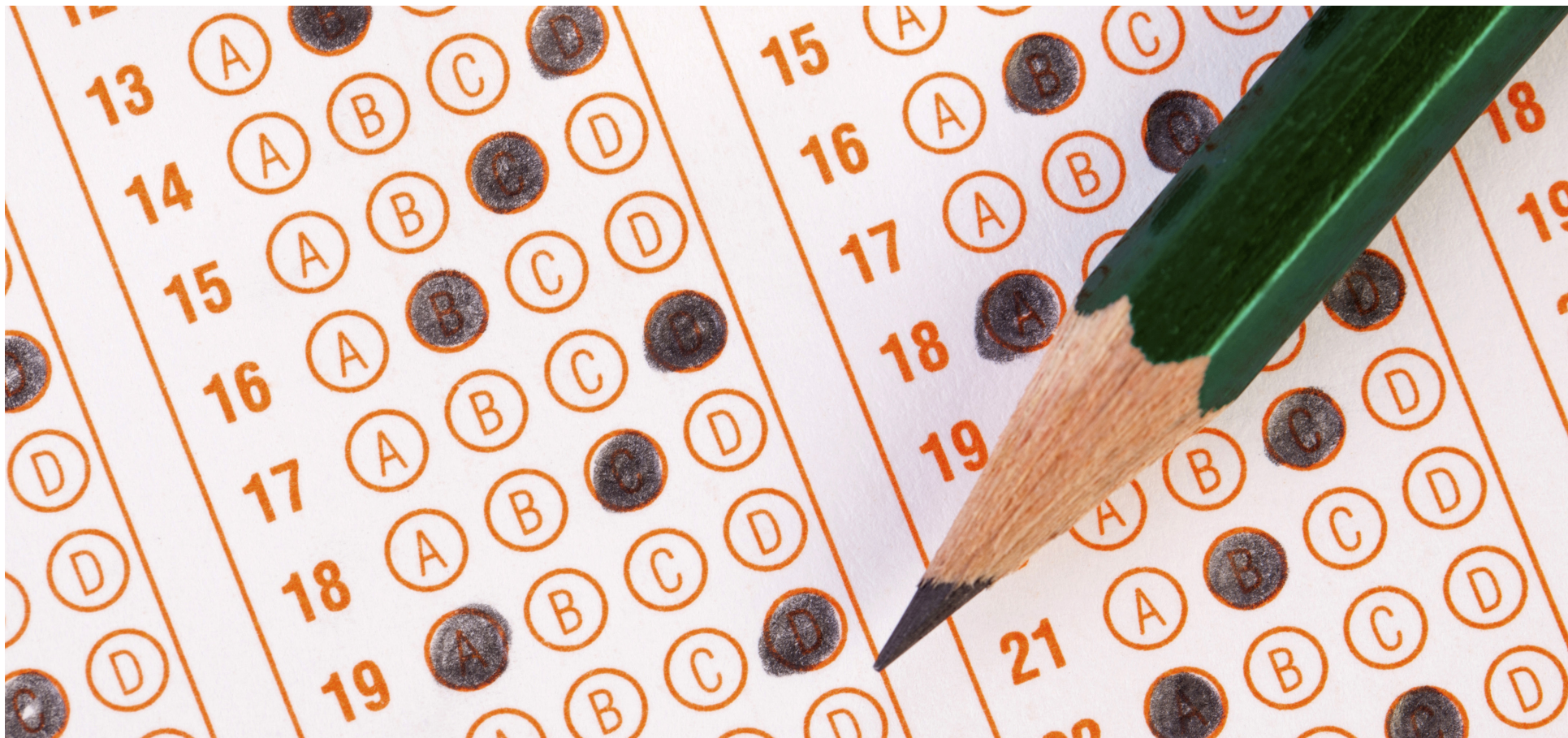
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Colleges are dropping the SAT in admissions

Why that's a good thing for most girls

BY NADRA NITTLE, EDUCATION REPORTER
The 19th

This story was originally published by The 19th

More than two-thirds of colleges and universities won't require the SAT for 2023 admission. That includes elite institutions such as Harvard and Stanford as well as the University of California system, which has dropped the test as an admission requirement permanently.

For SAT critics, test-optional admission at colleges and universities took far too long to become prevalent. The test has been accused of putting students from underrepresented communities of color at a disadvantage for years. Less known is that boys have consistently outscored girls on the test, a pattern that

dates back decades, underestimating girls' future college grades.

"The SAT test and other standardized tests claim that their value is in predicting college grades," said Bob Schaeffer, executive director of FairTest: National Center for Fair & Open Testing. "Despite the fact that young women get lower scores on the test than young men, they earn higher grades when matched for identical courses in college than the boys."

Here's what we know about the test and the gender gap.

WHAT IS THE SAT?

Princeton University psychology professor Carl C. Brigham invented the SAT. Brigham was a eugenicist who published a 1923 book called "A Study of American Intelligence" that analyzed, by race, the results of IQ tests given to World War I Army recruits. Brigham feared that academic achievement in the United States would decline as the country became more racially diverse. After publishing his book, he

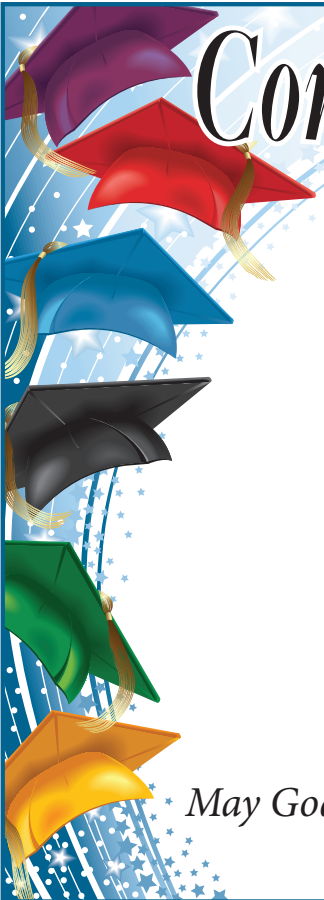
developed his own version of the Army IQ test and administered it to first-year students and prospective students at Princeton and Cooper Union, respectively.

Then, the College Entrance Examination Board, which started in 1900 with 12 presidents of top universities to administer college entrance exams and standardize the admissions process, tapped Brigham to devise an exam that a broader group of schools could use. Now known as the SAT, that test was first administered to high school students in 1926.

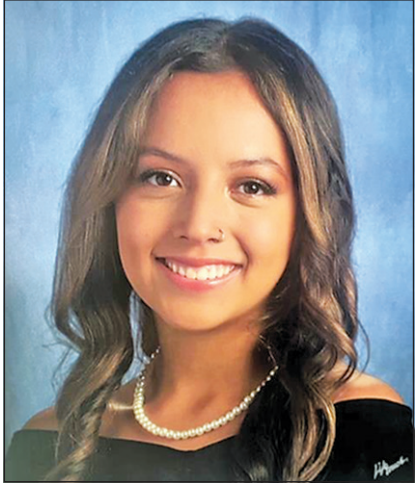
It would take until 1952 for the Educational Testing Service to develop the SAT most familiar to the public today. That exam included a verbal section that tested students' reading comprehension skills, understanding of analogies and antonyms, and aptitude for sentence completion questions. Today's test also includes a math section made up of questions that draw on students' ability to solve algebra, geometry and other problems. Scores go up to 1600.

By the mid-20th century, hundreds of thousands

See **SATS**, page 18



Congratulations!!!



We are very proud of you!
May God bless you and keep you safe always.
 Love you, Mom and Dad


Class of 2023




Congratulations Alexzavier!

We are so very proud of you. We wish you all the best and can't wait to see what else you accomplish as you continue onto the next chapter of your life.

With Love,
 Mom, Dad, Arri, & Ellie 😊





Congrats

TO THE CLASS OF
2023!



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Congratulations Kobey on all your accomplishments through your school years!!



Class of 2023
Member of
NHS, NTHS, FFA

Behind you,
all your memories.

Before you,
all your dreams.

Around you,
all who love you.

Within you,
all you need.

**Love, Dad, Mom, Danyelle, Kameron,
 Baby Boy Craft, Keaton & Lindsay**

Victoria College announces innovative plans, UHV partnership to address regional nursing shortage

Special to the Inquirer

Victoria College officials recently announced that new plans are underway to help address the regional nursing shortage, including a new hybrid track within VC's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program and a partnership with the University of Houston-Victoria that will allow students to complete the ADN Program and UHV's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program simultaneously.

Both initiatives are aimed at providing greater flexibility and accessibility to students pursuing nursing careers while meeting the demand for highly skilled nurses.

"Victoria College is committed to providing the trained and educated workforce needed in the region," said Dr. Jennifer Kent, VC President. "I commend the Dean of Allied Health and her team for their innovative plan to make nursing school a reality for more community members who have to work to provide for their families."

VC currently offers two options for students pursuing an associate degree in nursing, which is required to become a Registered Nurse (RN). Students who have no prior nursing experience can enroll in the two-year ADN Program, which is offered face-to-face, while students who have already become Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) can enroll in a one-year transition program that includes an online component for lecture courses.

Similar to the transition program for LVNs, the new hybrid track will offer new nursing students the flexibility of online lectures combined with in-person skills training at VC's state-of-the-art Health Sciences Center and clinicals at affiliated healthcare facilities.

"We are excited to offer the convenience and flexibility of online learning while maintaining the essential hands-on components provided through clinicals and skills exams," said Darla Strother, Dean of VC's Division of Allied Health. "VC recognizes the evolving needs of today's students, and the new hybrid track



will allow us to better accommodate the needs of those who work and have diverse schedules. Many of our students are parents themselves and juggle real-world responsibilities in addition to the rigors of being a student."

In order to accommodate the additional clinical spaces needed for students enrolling in the new hybrid track, VC plans to incorporate some evening and weekend rotations into the clinical schedule for all its allied health students.

"It has always been essential for our healthcare students to gain hands-on experience during our clinical partners' busiest daytime shifts," said Strother. "That is certainly still the case, but we are now strategically broadening our clinical experiences to include some evenings and weekends."

In addition to the hybrid track, VC plans to partner with UHV to offer a concurrent program that provides a streamlined

pathway for nursing students to earn both an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Under the new partnership, students will have the opportunity to enroll in VC's two-year ADN Program while simultaneously being admitted into UHV's four-year BSN Program.

In the nursing pathway, it is common for students to complete a BSN to position themselves for future job advancement into leadership roles.

"A BSN degree is a window of opportunity for students. It provides a pedestal for progressing to graduate degrees," said Dorothy Thomas, Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of the UHV Nursing Program. "In addition, our UHV and VC concurrent nursing program gives prospective nursing students an initial BSN Program opportunity, which increases nursing students and the nursing workforce. As nurse educators,

we strive to be a model of excellence and provide nurses with all the necessary educational services."

Students who enroll in the new concurrent program will complete their prerequisites and program of study courses at VC in two years and will then enter the ADN Program at VC while simultaneously enrolling in UHV's online BSN courses. Upon successful completion, students will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to become a registered nurse and will have the opportunity to obtain their BSN degree at the same time.

"The nursing shortage in our country is critical, and its impact on smaller communities is significant," said Thomas. "This partnership is long in the making and sets a goal of increasing nurses in our community and surrounding communities. We take pride in our community; therefore, our students at both institutions are our pride."

Dr. Daniel Cano, Chief Medical Officer at Citizens Medical Center and a member of VC's Board of Trustees, agrees the nursing shortage is not going away anytime soon.

"The introduction of a new hybrid track in VC's nursing program as well as the college's partnership with UHV to introduce a concurrent ADN-BSN program demonstrate VC's commitment to addressing this challenge with innovative solutions," he said.

The VC Foundation has also received a generous donation from the M.G. and Lillie A. Johnson Foundation to fund additional scholarships for students pursuing health careers.

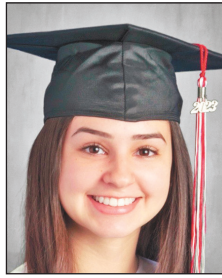
Victoria College is accepting applications through June 1 at 4 p.m. for its Fall 2023 cohort of ADN Program students. Applications are also being accepted for VC's one-year Vocational Nursing Program, which will begin in Jan. 2024. The deadline to submit the application and required documentation is Oct. 1 at noon. For more information or to apply for either nursing program, visit VictoriaCollege.edu/HealthCareers.



CLASS OF 2023
NIXON-SMILEY



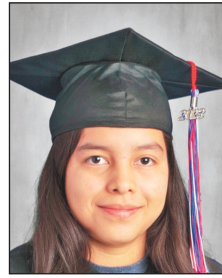
Jaden Alvarez



Kaelyn Baker



Fatima Barrientos



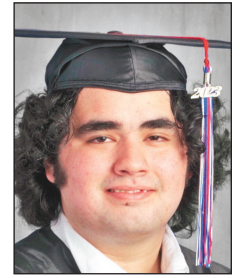
Jenifer Brizuela
Osorto



Spencer Brown



Holden Canion



Elario Cardenas



Karla Coronado



Dante Cortez



Haven Davis



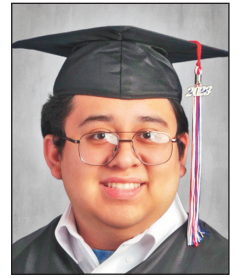
Soledad Estrada



Mckaylah Filla



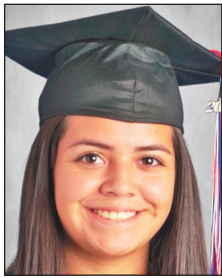
Orlando Flores



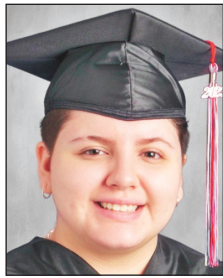
Alan Galicia



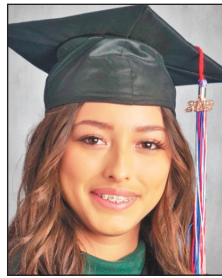
Leonardo Garcia



Mary Kate Garcia



Madison Garza



Grecia Gaytan
Maldonado



Gavin Gomez



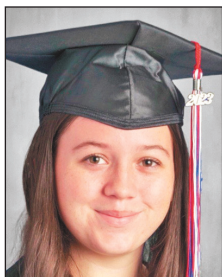
Guillermo Grant



Jessica Hernandez



Kristopher Kitchens



Dezaray Lamb



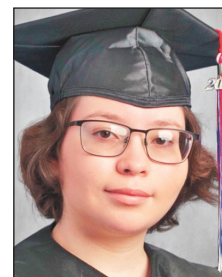
Irene Limon



Armando Martinez



Bradyn Martinez



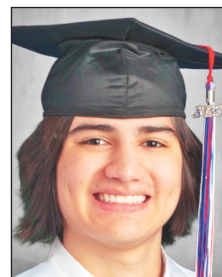
Emma Martinez



Mario Martinez



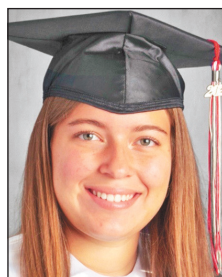
Austin McGlothine



Dustin Mejia



Fernando Mejia



Natalee Mendez



Ian Miller



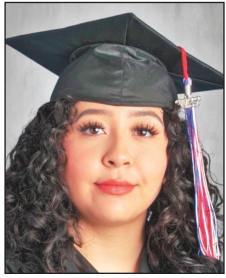
Jan Morales
Vazquez



Elizabeth Ochoa



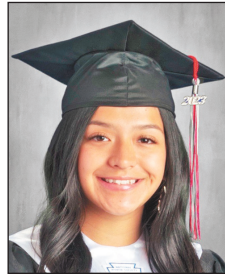
CLASS OF 2023 NIXON-SMILEY



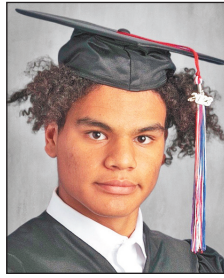
Gisell Ortiz



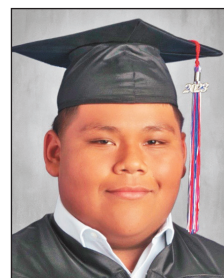
Sebastian Ortiz



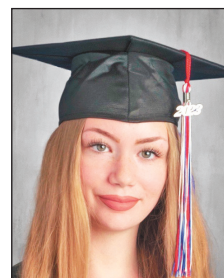
Kaidence Pecina



Daylon Perales



Jose Perez



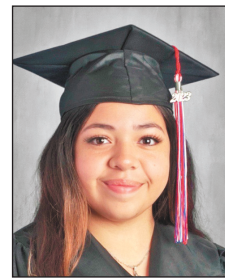
Rebekah Petty



Lelia Poling



Casey Pullin



Maria Rangel
Castillo



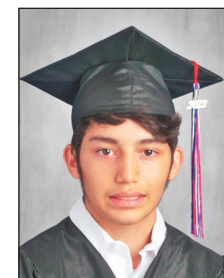
Braxton Regalado



Madisyne Rice



Preston Rice



Dylon Riojas



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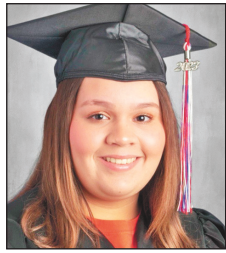
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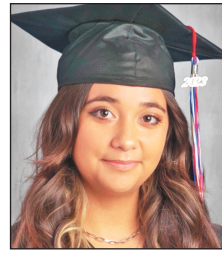
Adriana Rodriguez Morales



Isaac Salmeron



Diana Sanchez



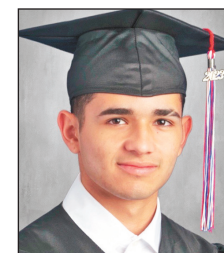
Zarianna Sanchez



Criselle Stansel



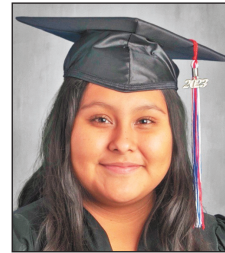
Taylor Stasney



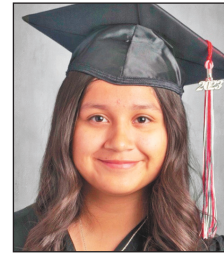
Alexander Tirado Cruz



Juan Torres



Jaqueline Tovar



Sarah Valerio



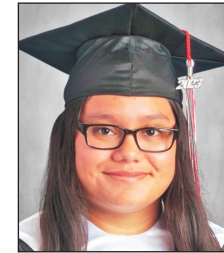
Jacquelyn Vasquez



Jennifer Vasquez



Ana Vazquez



Lizbeth Vazquez



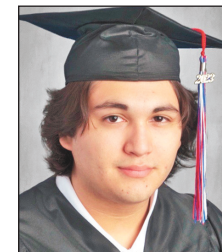
Madeline Velasquez



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Your mom and I are very proud of the young lady you have become. Your path has taken you in a different direction, but you will do great things at Blinn.

Love you,
Dad and Mom

You're A Star!

Smart! GRADS!

Camargo

Congratulations Preston Rice

Your mom and I are very proud of the young man you have become. You set your mind to become a Game Warden at a young age and you are following that dream.

Love you,
Dad and Mom

SATS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

of students were taking the SAT. But the Educational Testing Service did not secure its biggest client — the University of California system — until 1960, after years of courting. Since then, the SAT has become a tradition for college-bound teenagers, but it's a tradition that has yielded different outcomes for girls than for boys.

WHY HAS THE SAT FACED ACCUSATIONS OF GENDER BIAS?

Evidence of a gender gap surfaced as early as 1985, when *Ms. Magazine* ran its first article on the topic. Ten years later, a University of California, Berkeley, study found that the SAT underpredicted girls' academic achievement in college by as much as 140 points. The test's gender gap has never closed. In 2017, Art Sawyer, founder of Compass Education Group, which trains students for standardized tests, conducted an SAT score analysis to find that "proportionally 45 percent more males are in the 1400-1600 score range" than girls.

Some have pointed to girls' historically lower math scores on the test to explain the gap. In their 2009 book "Still Failing at Fairness," David Sadker and Karen Zittleman note that boys scored 10 points higher on the SAT than girls in mathematics as far back as 1967. In 2020, the gap was 15 points, but it has been as high as 41 points.

Phyllis Rosser, the researcher who first reported on the gender gap in *Ms. Magazine*, also pointed out that a disparity exists on the SAT's reading samples, where girls often score lower than boys. Girls' main edge on the SAT has long been the writing part of the verbal section, where they sometimes score up to 14 points higher than boys, she found. Rosser, whose work on the subject grew into a book, "The SAT Gender Gap," discussed her research before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, arguing that girls of color are penalized by college entrance exams. Many girls of color not only contend with a gender gap on the SAT but also a racial gap, one that remains a problem, with Black and Latinx students scoring lower than their White and Asian American counterparts, particularly in math.

The overall advantage that boys have on the SAT can also be found on the preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT), the shorter, similar test students take ahead of the SAT. PSAT scores determine the winners of the highly competitive National Merit Scholarship and have had similar gender disparities. "For decades, boys scored so much higher than girls that two out of three Merit semifinalists were male," according to Sadker and Zittleman.



DO TEST FORMATS AND STEREOTYPES CONTRIBUTE TO THE GENDER GAP?

Some researchers have attributed gender performance disparities on standardized tests to the fact that these tests are timed and have multiple choice formats. Research published in 2018 in the *Educational Researcher* found that test format accounted for about 25 percent of the gender gaps in state- and district-level achievement tests given to 8 million elementary and middle school students nationwide.

According to Sadker and Zittleman, boys might have the edge on multiple choice tests because they're more likely to guess when they don't know an answer. In contrast, girls tend to skip answering questions they're unsure are correct and heed test instructions that say they'll lose points for wrong answers. Comparable data does not exist for trans, nonbinary and gender nonconforming students.

The multiple-choice format isn't the only disadvantage girls face on standardized tests. A 2019 study published in *Nature* found that the gender gap on math and science tests closes when women are given more time to complete assessments. Timed tests may also increase test anxiety, a problem that has a greater effect on women's scores on high-stakes assessments.

Additionally, women test-takers may experience a

phenomenon called "stereotype threat."

"That's the notion that if you are in a high-stakes kind of situation like the SAT, you are afraid of living up to a stereotype, like women aren't good at math," Steven G. Brint, a distinguished professor of sociology and public policy at the University of California, Riverside, told *The 19th*. "You sort of lose your composure, and the whole idea of stereotype threat kind of hovering above you as you take the test could lead to a lack of confidence, lack of focus, fear of living up to the stereotype."

WHAT ABOUT THE ACTUAL QUESTIONS?

Some SAT critics say there are problems with the SAT's content, such as reading passages that lack women characters or describe activities stereotypically associated with men. The College Board said it takes measures to prevent gender bias from surfacing on the tests, telling *The 19th* that its test development process includes "numerous rigorous reviews."

"All passages and test questions undergo content and fairness reviews by internal and external experts from diverse backgrounds," the College Board said in a statement. "As part of the test development process, item statistics are analyzed to identify potential bias based on a number of characteristics of the test-taking population, including gender."

The College Board said it analyzes any differences

SATS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

in performance that may not be achievement-related among groups of students.

But these steps don't necessarily eliminate bias, said Schaeffer, who is concerned about the test including questions that resonate more with boys than with girls. When boys did not perform as well on reading passages, for example, test officials added more references to sports, politics and business, FairTest complained in the 1990s. Yet, comparable moves weren't made to help girls perform better on the math section.

Schaeffer argues that systematic discrimination based on race, gender and other factors are baked into the testing process. His main objection, though, is the use of standardized testing to determine students' futures. Over the past decade, companies such as Google, McKinsey and Goldman Sachs have all asked job applicants for their test scores at some point.

"That your college-going talent is based on answering multiple choice questions in rapid fire is an underlying assumption that has a sexist bias," Schaeffer said. "In addition, there have been a number of publications that have essentially said, 'We don't know why there's a gender gap, but it's there and it's pervasive.'"



“The SAT test and other standardized tests claim that their value is in predicting college grades. Despite the fact that young women get lower scores on the test than young men, they earn higher grades when matched for identical courses in college than the boys.”

—Bob Schaeffer, Executive director of FairTest: National Center for Fair & Open Testing

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE SAT GENDER GAP?

Advocates for changes in standardized testing say the SAT gender gap can have long-term effects on girls. It can affect which scholarships they receive and, in some cases, stop them from attending a selective college entirely. Sara Harberson, a former college admissions officer, dean of admissions and director of college counseling, told The 19th that colleges have often set minimum SAT scores for admissions.

"The SAT has been a great influencer in college admissions because it is a very quick way for an admissions officer to know how competitive a student is in the applicant pool," said Harberson, now CEO and founder of Application Nation, which helps parents navigate the college admissions process. "Even before I would read an application, I knew that if a student did not have a certain SAT score, they simply were not going to be admitted regardless of what else was in the application."

Colleges and universities have long recognized that test scores don't necessarily predict a student's academic performance. Still, some higher education institutions rely on the SAT to bulk up the number of men in their student body, Harberson said, because more women than men apply.

"The colleges aren't going to go out of their way to say, well, 'This young woman is so incredible, and even though her test scores are a little bit lower, let's admit her anyway,'" she said. "There are higher expectations for those girls because there are so many of them in the applicant pool."

For students interested in pursuing certain careers and graduate school programs, their SAT scores might come into play again, cutting them off from potential opportunities, test critics say. The gender gap might also be used by some to double down on gender stereotypes and suggest that girls and women simply aren't cut out for STEM careers.

WHAT'S THE SAT'S FUTURE?

A number of colleges have already moved away from requiring the test. Bowdoin College in Maine stands out for going test-optional back in 1969, making it a very early trendsetter. Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania was also a leader in this trend, establishing a test-optional admissions process for select students in 1992 and then everyone in 2006.

"This policy was created because, decades ago, F&M recognized that a student's academic performance in high school was a far better predictor for how they would perform in the college classroom," said Jimmie Foster, vice president for enrollment management, in a statement to The 19th. "Particularly, when compared to their performance on a test on a random Saturday morning."

A test-optional future for most colleges and universities could reduce the barriers girls experience during the admissions process. But Harberson said that colleges aren't dropping the admissions requirement for selfless reasons. School officials noticed that scrapping the entrance exam requirements resulted in an increase in applications, especially from underrepresented students, Harberson said. Selective institutions strive to get as many applicants as possible, she added, and the rise in applications can help them diversify their student bodies.

"I can't imagine any college that cares about application totals and diversity going back to requiring the test," Harberson said. "The vast majority are going to be staying test-optional."

FairTest estimates that 1,800 colleges and universities are currently test-optional, compared with just over 100 three decades ago.

Given the gender and other biases associated with the SAT, Harberson has just one question about this shift: "Why did it take this long?"



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Oscar Duran



Alex Ford



Elizabeth Godinez



Jasmine Godinez



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Vanity Hernandez



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Makayla Medina



Lorelei Moreno



Luis Perez



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Michael Rosas



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Samanhi Thompson



Courdasia
Vanderbilt



Alfred Vargas



Jaime Zamora

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Madison Hadnot
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Blaize Smith
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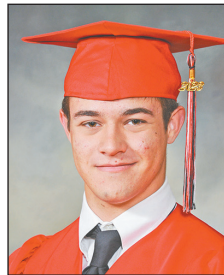
Alexandria Escobar



Paris Flach



Dario Hernandez



Kaleb Linn



Julia Machacek



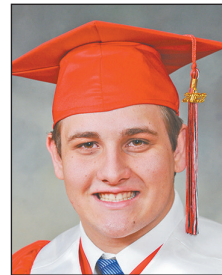
Carson McNabb



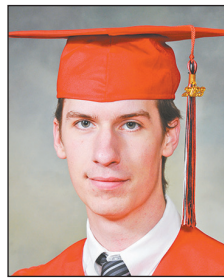
Gabriella Nagle



Ashlyn Pesek



Elliott Peters



Blake Pohl



Anna Reeves



Cole Robinson



Jacob Seibert



Brayden Slaughter



Cortney Tuch



Jacob Twyford



Joseph Twyford



Jackson Ulcak



Jacob Wachsmuth



Matthew Wagner

HISTORIAN Jacob Twyford

Jacob Kevin Twyford, the son of Kevin and Wendi Twyford, has been named the Historian of St. Paul High School's Class of 2023. Jacob came to Shiner Catholic School in the 7th grade. Throughout high school, Jacob has been on the High Honor and Honor Roll, and is a part of the National Honor Society. He participated in TAPPS State Academics and Fine Arts and won 8th in Calculator Applications in his junior and senior years, 6th place in Calculator Applications his sophomore year, and 4th place in Duet Acting his junior year. He was also a part of the first-ever Debate Team at St. Paul High School, placing 3rd as a team at state. He also completed in Advanced Mathematics and Prose Interpretation, qualifying for state in each. Jacob is also an active member of the Student Council and was elected as Senior Class President and as Class Historian during his freshman, sophomore, and junior years.

Jacob is also the co-coordinator for a public service organization called J-Squad, and an active member of Club Med. Jacob is an active member of Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church and serves as an altar server, a lector for school masses, leads and plays piano for the church choir, and has volunteered at Catholic Heart Work Camp. He has also been an active member of the St. Paul Theatre Department under the direction of Angela Decou, making state appearances at the TAPPS State One Act Play competition, and winning a State All Star Cast Award his senior year as Antipholus of Ephesus in Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors."

Jacob has also volunteered his time with various other organizations throughout high school, including St. Paul Booster Club plate drives, the Miss Sparkles Pageant, and the Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church Spring and Fall Picnics. In the summers, Jacob volunteered his time at the school, helping the teachers prepare their classrooms for the new school year. He also had a summer job with Splashway Waterpark and Camp Ground, earning an Employee of the Month award. He also completed the 100 Mile Club during the summer of his junior and senior years.

Jacob competed in multiple sports throughout high school and was a member of the varsity cross country and varsity basketball teams all four years, the track & field team for three years, and the tennis team for two years. He received Academic All State in Tennis. Jacob also filmed for the St. Paul Football Team his junior and senior year.

Along with sports and school, Jacob plays piano under the instruction of Mrs. Vida Burnett. He has studied piano for fourteen years and has competed in the National Piano Guild Auditions and in the Piano National Federation of Music Clubs at the district and state level, earning Superior and Outstanding Ribbons.

Jacob will be attending Christendom College in the fall to earn a degree in Mathematics on the pre-med track and hopes to continue his education by attending medical school, eventually becoming a practicing physician.



CLASS OF 2023 SHINER ST. PAUL HIGH

VALEDICTORIAN **Jacob Wachsmuth**

Jacob Kyle Wachsmuth is the Valedictorian for the St. Paul High School Class of 2023. He is the son of Jake and Christine Wachsmuth and the brother of Ashley Wachsmuth. Jacob has attended Shiner Catholic School since he enrolled in Pre-K 3 in the fall of 2008. During his time at St. Paul High School, Jacob has participated in football, basketball, baseball, and track. He has also participated in TAPPS One Act Play, TAPPS Band, and TAPPS Academics. He was a member of the St. Paul National Honor Society and was the Vice President of Club Med. In addition to school activities, Jacob has been involved in numerous church and community activities. At Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, Jacob has been a liturgist, altar server, and volunteer for the past eight years. He has also participated in his parish's youth ministry program, the J-Squad. In the community, Jacob has volunteered at various events such as Church picnics, Downtown Market Days, brewery events, and town holidays. During the summer of 2022, he held a summer job working as a personal banker at the local branch of South Star Bank. Jacob participated at the HOBY Leadership Camp in the summer of 2021, and the RYLA Leadership Camp in the summer of 2022.

During his Freshman year, Jacob was a cast member on the 3rd place TAPPS Division 3 State One Act Play team. He was a member of the football team that won the District Championship and the TAPPS Division 4 Football State Championship. He won the St. Paul Voice of Democracy Essay Contest. He was on the High Honor Roll every quarter of the school year and received the Spanish 1, English 1, and World Geography Class Awards.

As a Sophomore, Jacob was a member of the football team that won the District Championship and the TAPPS Division 4 Football State Championship. He was awarded 3rd place in the St Paul Voice of Democracy Essay Contest, won the District 24 Voice of Democracy Essay contest, was a Texas Voice of Democracy Essay Contest State Finalist, and received a

\$1000 scholarship. Jacob was on the TAPPS 2A Track District 4 championship team where he ran the 400 meter dash. He was an alternate runner for the TAPPS 2A Track South Regional Runner-Up team and on the TAPPS 2A Track State Runner-Up team. He once again was on the High Honor Roll every quarter of the school year, received the Algebra II award, and was inducted into the National Honor Society.

During his Junior Year, Jacob became the starting quarterback of the football team; His team won the District Championship and the TAPPS Division 4 Football State Championship. He was named Honorable Mention All-District Quarterback. He once again earned 3rd place in the St Paul Voice of Democracy Essay, won the District 24 Voice of Democracy Essay Contest, was named a Texas Voice of Democracy Essay Contest State Finalist, and received a \$1000 scholarship. He was a part of the TAPPS 2A Academic Contest Runner-Up team where he placed 5th in Number Sense, 5th in Advanced Math, and was the State Champion in Cal-

culator. He was a member of the basketball team that made the playoffs. He also ran the 400 Meter Dash and the 1600 Meter Relay. He was a member of the TAPPS 2A Track District 4 Runner-Up team, the South Regional 3rd place team, and the State 5th place team. His 1600 Meter Relay team advanced to the State Track Meet which qualified him to be a part of the Academic

All-State Track Team. In baseball, he was a member of the District Championship team and the TAPPS Division 5 Baseball State Runner-Up team. He continued to earn High Honors every quarter and was given the Pre-Calculus Class Award.

During his Senior year, Jacob was named a National Merit Commended Scholar. He won the St Paul Voice of Democracy Essay Contest. He was the Republican Women of Yoakum

Area Essay Contest Grand Champion and was awarded a scholarship of \$1200. Jacob was the starting quarterback for his football team. His team won the District Championship and finished as the TAPPS Division 4 Football State Runner-Up team. He was named the TAPPS Division 4 District 2 2nd Team All-District Quarterback and was also named to the TAPPS Division 4 Academic All-State Football team. He was one of only eighty members of the Texas High School Coaches Association and Texas Army National Guard Academic All-State ELITE Football Team. His team also had the opportunity to participate in the Catholic Bowl at The Star in Frisco, Texas. He became a starter on the Basketball team. He was a part of the TAPPS 2A Academic Contest 3rd place team where he placed 7th in Number Sense, 7th in

Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and was the State Runner-Up in Calculator. He also ran the 400 Meter Dash and the 1600 Meter Relay for the track team. He advanced to Regionals in both events with a 2nd place finish in the 400 Meter Dash and a 3rd place finish in the 1600 Meter Relay. His team finished this meet as the District Champions. At Regionals, Jacob placed 5th in the 400 Meter Dash and his team placed 3rd in the 1600 Meter Relay. His team also won the TAPPS 2A South Regional Championship. He ran the 1600 Meter Relay at the State Track Meet where his team finished as the 4th place team. He was TAPPS Academic All-State in track and he was one of forty members of the Texas High School Coaches Association and Texas Army National Guard Academic All-State ELITE Boys Track Team. Jacob was the starting Right Fielder for his school's baseball team. This team advanced to the TAPPS Division 5 state tournament. Jacob also served as a student coach for the St. Ludmila football, basketball, track, and softball teams. He also coached PSIA Calculator and helped two kids advance to the State contest where those students finished 2nd and 10th. Jacob once again earned High Honors during every quarter of his Senior Year. Due to his participation in Dual Credit, Jacob will graduate with twenty-six hours of college credit. Jacob plans to attend Texas A&M University in order to obtain degrees in nutrition and kinesiology in order to become a coach and teacher.



SHINER ST. PAUL HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023

SALUTATORIAN **Joseph Twyford**

Joseph Kevin Twyford, son of Kevin and Wendi Twyford, is the 2023 Salutatorian of St. Paul High School. Joseph came to Shiner Catholic School in the 7th grade. Throughout high school, Joseph received many honors. He made the High Honor Roll and won many class subject awards including Biology, Religion I, Algebra I, Spanish II, Theater, Geometry, and Religion III. Joseph was also awarded National Merit Commended Student for his outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. Joseph participated in various extracurricular activities as well. He competed and placed in academic events at the State level including Number Sense, Mathematics, Spelling, and Current Events. He earned a State Championship in Solo Acting and a State Championship in Duet Acting with his partner Alexa Escobar. Joseph was a part of the first-ever debate team at St. Paul and was the individual runner-up in Lincoln-Douglas Debate at the TAPPS State Academic and Speech Meet. This year, he was the top overall speech participant at the State Meet scoring 22 points.

Joseph took theatre all four years of high school, winning two All-Star Cast Awards at the TAPPS State One-Act Play competition during that time. His accolades in acting and academics earned him the TAPPS Fine Arts Student of the Year Award for the 2021-22 school year.

Joseph competed in track and field, basketball, and football throughout high school. He threw the shot put and discus in track and field and is a two-time State Champion in the shot put, a three-time State Second Runner-Up in the discus and was Academic All-State. In Basketball, he

earned a First Team All-District award his senior year and Academic All-State. In football, Joseph was a part of three State Champion Teams and a State Runner-up Team. He was an Honorable Mention All-State Offensive Lineman his senior year and was awarded TAPPS Academic All-State, First Team Academic All-State by the Texas High School Coaches Association.

Joseph also loves to play the piano. He is under the instruction of Mrs. Vida Burnett. He has been playing for 14 years, winning numerous state and national awards through the College of American Musicians and the Texas Federation of Music Clubs.

Joseph is a member of Student Council and served as Treasurer. He also served as Class Vice President for three years and Class President for one year. Joseph is a member of the National Honor Society. Joseph is an active member of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church. He altar serves at Mass, plays the piano for the choir, live streams, and volunteers at Church events such as the picnics and the annual Gala, and the J-Squad.

Joseph was selected to attend Texas Boys State in 2022. There, he was elected as an Associate Justice to the Court of Criminal Appeals and served as a country delegate. His city was awarded the prestigious honor of "Best City," scoring the most points in activities from elections to sports out of each city at Boys State.

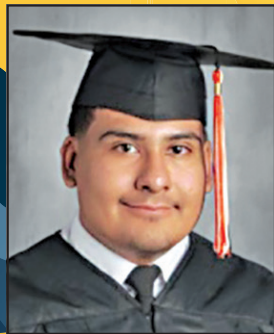
Joseph will attend Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia in the fall to pursue a degree in Political Science. He hopes to further his education by attending Law School and becoming a lawyer.



Congratulates the Class of 2023

We are especially proud of the accomplishments of our seniors and their families, and we support a bright future to all graduating seniors.

Gonzales High School



Clemente Govea



Sebastian Matamoros



Gage Cardenas



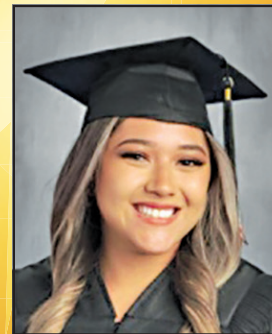
Jose Pizano Guzman



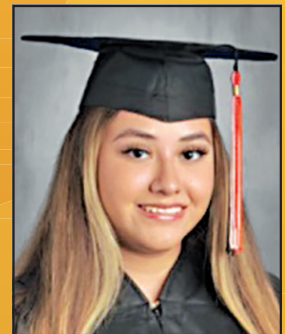
Matilda Bonilla



Hector Gamez



Erika Garcia



Ana Orozco

Shiner High School



Angel San Martin