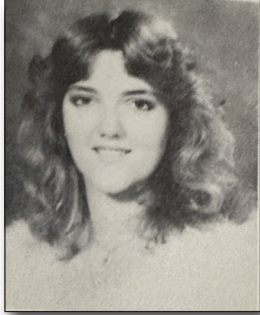


Name that Staff Member!

This teacher definitely has her “principals” in order. Happy to “assist” students, faculty, and staff alike, you may remember her more from her “elementary” days on another campus. She will be here to see us all reach “high” places!



Can you name this staff member?

**THE NUN II**

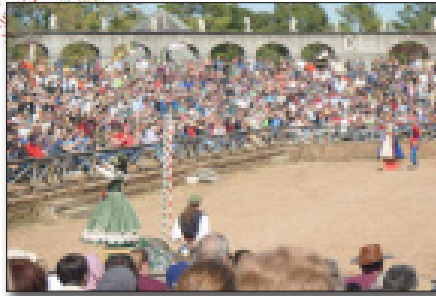
by Christopher Craver & Landyn Marta

Directed by Michael Chaves, The NUN II was a very interesting film. Where the NUN II lacked depth and importance, it excelled in the horror aspect. This movie was able to follow a lot of horror aspects. For every 2 decent parts of the film there was at least one equally bad part. There was one battle at the end which held significance and it was done quite well but for every other kill, haunting, or fight it couldn't reach the same peak, although it was interesting to watch nonetheless I will admit that it was an accurate sequel to the first NUN but it failed to hold the power the first film had. Overall it was an average movie but it was entertaining at the least.  
- Chris

NUN II has a very non-traditional approach to horror. The film was very slow and not much was directly seen of the NUN before the finale. There are maybe 3 encounters with the NUN that I can recall. The NUN as a stalker entity was mysterious and creepy in the ways she moved. Once she is noticed she will either kill you immediately or toy with you before letting you walk away or just killing you regardless. The final battle was cool by itself for sure. The inclusion of religious artifacts was a great choice in my opinion. Yet I feel the film lacked any real scares and couldn't bring me to care much about the characters in any meaningful way. Regardless I enjoyed the film and would recommend a watch to anyone who seems interested. - Landyn.

**The Texas Renaissance Fair**

A Portal to a Different Place in Time  
by Teresa Ritzi



Have you ever wanted to go back in time and see what it would be like during the Medieval era? Well the Coulam brothers wanted to do just that. The brothers established the Texas Renaissance Fair in Todd Mission, Tx, in 1974. It was originally a very small gathering, but grew into the huge event it is today. The fair takes place every weekend from October 7th to November 26th, and has over half a million visitors a year.

The fairground consists of four different sections themed after the medieval versions of France, Spain, England, and Germany. Each section also has stages for performances, themed food stalls and shops, and fair games too!

To add to the experience, all of the workers are fully dressed in renaissance fashion, and encourage visitors to dress up as well. But don't worry if you don't have an outfit to dress in, because shops at the fair also sell renaissance attire. Each day during the Festival, has a specific theme and a special event for that day. If you are curious about the performances, some of the most viewed ones consist of the parade, the joust, and the firework show.

The joust is one of the things you have to see at least once if you ever go to the fair! It consists of four knights, representing each section of the fairground, who compete for the king and queen of the fair. Sometimes they will compete to win the heart of a fair maiden too! --

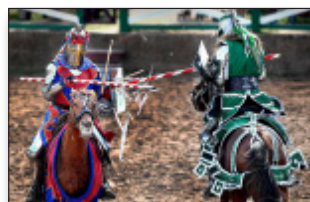


-- Each time the joust has a different winner selected, and one of them gets picked to be allowed to cheat during the games, this can lead to a rather heated game against each side. Each joust is different and it is really fun to cheer for your knight and enjoy the show as a whole.

The fire show is a breathtaking experience I always make sure to go see. It consists of a series of amazing fire tricks that is accompanied by music. The Fire show is followed by fireworks, and it truly feels like a magical experience. The fireworks at the fair are an incredibly big deal to the people who attend, and the fireworks are usually followed with an after party for all the workers inside to celebrate the fair. It is an important celebration to the workers at the fair.

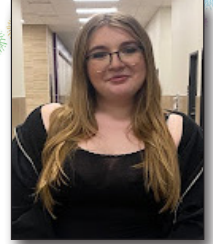
Another important celebration that takes place at the fair is the weddings. Yes, the renaissance fair has weddings! There is a special venue that takes place for any lucky bride or groom who celebrates their wedding at the fair, and they tend to hold wedding parades afterwards. It is a beautiful and fun occasion to experience, and truly adds to the magic of the fair.

Overall, whether it be the food, the joust, or the dress, the Renaissance Festival is an amazingly magical experience to anyone who is able to attend. I encourage anyone to have the experience of going to the Renaissance Fair, it truly feels as if you are actually back in time!

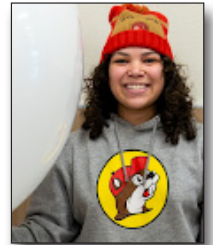


**Herd In The Hall**

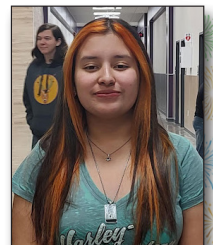
What are your New Year's Resolutions?



**Aubrey Thomas:** *My New Year's resolution is to communicate better with others. Many people, including myself, have problems with communication and talking things out. If we all communicated better there would be so much less drama and problems! We have to try!*



**Genesis Huerta:** *My New Year's resolution is to go to the gym and lose the weight I gained over the holidays. Also, to move out of this town with the love of my life and travel the world. Plus, to not have so much stress. I know I can do it!*



**Paola Herrera:** *My New Year's resolution is to learn how to play a new sport. I also want to learn a new language and travel all over and around the world. But for now, high school... One thing at a time!*



**Leif Jarrell:** *In 2024 I would like to get a real job that I enjoy, which pays well. I would also like to make some more money to help my family. I hope this year will be better than the last, and if I have any control over it, it will! New Year, New Me (or you)!*



## The History of Chess

-by Gregory Rodriguez

The game of chess is well known across the world. Even if you have no idea how to play it, chances are you've still heard of it. There are Chess tournaments played globally, with many extremely intelligent and dedicated players attending them. Chess is also popular among regular people, with millions of people playing games online, as well as over the board.



Many people play chess professionally, with massive cash prizes being offered to the top of the leaderboard. Oftentimes, the people who play in these ultra-competitive tournaments are Grandmasters. These people are those that have proven their abilities in the game of chess, and these people are very rare. There are more billionaires in the world than there are chess grandmasters. Now you may know about the game now, but what about it as it was hundreds, or even thousands of years ago?

The earliest ancestors of the game of chess date back roughly 1,500 years to ancient India. The game wasn't known as chess, but chaturanga. The game was similar but the pieces had different names. Some of those names being; elephant as the bishop, horse as the knight, chariot as the rook, and advisor as the queen. The game was spread to Persia, where the pieces and rules were modified. The Arabs then conquered Persia, and the game was taken up by the Muslims. The game subsequently spread to Europe through Spain and Italy. The game evolved roughly into how it is currently in 1500 CE, which is near the end of the medieval period.



Chess has modernized drastically when compared to its ancestors. There are chess-orientated supercomputers, capable of analyzing millions of potential moves a second, with perfect accuracy. Nowadays, The human mind, although amazing, is simply no match for technology.

Chess is enjoyed by millions of people, both hardcore and casual players. Learning chess isn't difficult, but getting good at chess is. If you ever decide to sit down and play a game of chess, play for fun, and bragging rights.

Last issue's calf and staff were senior Shalom Tamale and staff member Vaughn Grisham.

## Kickin' Buck

by Yanessa Welch & Leif Jarrell



Allen Croft, our town's very own martial artist, has an awesome teaching program at his school Croft Academy of Martial Arts. Mr. Croft believes every student he has crossed paths with has helped him grow into the person he is today. "You see people grow, and I guess that means I've grown too." -Croft

He has specialized in mixed martial arts, including Judo, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, kick-boxing, and many more. He is skilled in many different types of hand to hand professional combat, and has multiple rankings of black belts in the different styles, from a number one ranking, all the way to a seven.

Croft was influenced by his father from the very beginning, and stated --



-- "I learned karate before I could even walk." Not only did his dad introduce him to the martial arts world, but also influenced him deeply. So did his childhood hero, The Incredible Hulk!

Mr. Croft wanted to share a few wise words with us high schoolers, "There is no magic pill for what you want. Hard work is what gets you there." "Keep an open view, an open mind, and don't sweat the small stuff." And if his words weren't enough, he is also offering a one time free class for students who are interested in martial arts! Please go by the dojo and enjoy this awesome opportunity. Allen is more than happy to teach and train, and get you into the best shape ever!



## Mishaps with Miguel

by Miguel Milan

When I was a sophomore in high school, I always used to go to Mrs. Crump's classroom to eat lunch. I was always there eating, but one day a teacher had made me really aggravated, and I didn't know what else to do. So, I went to go talk to my friend who was in Mrs. Crump's classroom. It was lunch and I made my way to Mrs. Crump's Classroom which is upstairs. Well, on my way there the same teacher passes me by, pulls me aside, and gives me another lecture! I was so done with that teacher that when I entered the classroom the first thing that

I did was yell something that well, I cannot say in a school newspaper, but let's just say it was very much rated R! Well, what I didn't realize was the fact that Mrs. Crump was in the classroom and she just heard everything that I just said about this person. At that moment all I could do was just hope she didn't hear anything but I was wrong. She then yells at me saying "Miguel, what did you just say?!" to which all I could do was laugh, because not only did she just hear what I said but also I then realized that my friend wasn't in there.

## Sweet Treats

by Ben Hass

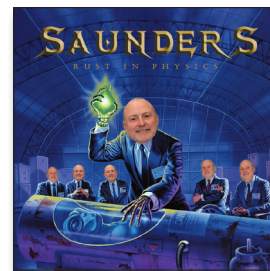


Peppermint Hot Chocolate

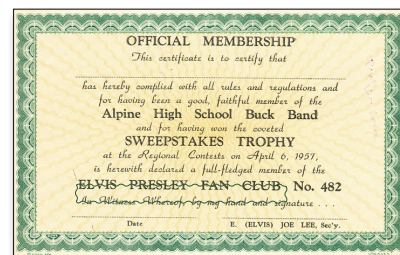
Time: 25 Mins  
Servings: 4 Mugs

Ingredients:  
1 1/2 cup of heavy cream  
1 1/2 cups of milk  
1/4 cup of sugar  
1/8 tsp of salt  
6 oz of bittersweet chocolate chopped  
3 drops of peppermint oil  
Sweetened whipped cream on top  
Directions:  
In a saucepan, combine the cream, milk, sugar, and salt and heat over medium heat. When the cream mixture begins to steam add the chopped chocolate, and stir, until melted. Stir in the peppermint oil. Put the hot chocolate into mugs and top with whipped cream. Enjoy.

My family and I thought this recipe was delicious and will definitely make this again.



-quantavious gooch



## Little Toritos

This student is definitely "taking care of business in a flash!" He is "One with the Force, and the Force is with him!" Whether jamming out on his saxophone, singing for a crowd, or participating in One Act Play, this little Torito will leave his positive mark on AHS forever!



Can you name that student?

Thank you so much to our friends at the Alpine Avalanche for all their support

ALPINE AVALANCHE