



# The Eagle Express

Issue 3

Feb./March Issue

## Spring production in full swing

**By: Kayleigh Frank, Mindy**

The girls are ready and prepared for a great performance of "Steel Magnolias." Molly Slack, the director and producer of the play, has been putting on plays for 18 years and she can tell that this one is definitely going to be a success.

The cast can't wait for the performance. "There were 16 that auditioned, and only 12 made it," according to Slack.

"I love to work with such great actors and getting to hang out with them!" said Sydney Olejniczak who plays "Truvy."

"This is exactly what I would have expected. The play is tons of fun." said Anna Miller, who plays "Annelle."

Some of these talented girls have had more acting experience than others, but they are all equally as wonderful on the stage. "I've been acting since 2012, when I did my first play at my school." according to Sydney Olejniczak.

Anna Miller, claims she did a musical at her church and realized how much she loved acting.

The girls are practicing and preparing for a great show at Briscoe.

"My best friend and I, who also has the same part as I do, hang out a lot, so we can practice." said Christa Alonzo who plays "Shelby".

"I practice every day with my mom." said Sydney Olejniczak.

All of the girls are excited, but still nervous at the same time. The play will definitely be a success for all the girls.

## Student fights for title

**By: Alexis Ruggiero**

If you were to ask just about any eighth-grade boy, he would more than likely say he could out fight any student in school. Very few actually have the skills and technique needed to back a statement so strong.

Gonzalo Cardenas is one of those few students who can. Cardenas, an eighth grade student, just brought home the title "National Silver Glove Champion" in boxing. Gonzalo will have been participating in boxing for nine years this April.

Cardenas has won two belts, one from state championships, and the other from nationals. He was in the 14 and 15 division and weight 165 to 178. His reward from winning nationals was a silver boxing belt and a \$50 gift card.

Gonzalo says, "I like boxing because it's fun. Boxing is exciting for me because I get my anger out and it gives me something to do every day."

And the impact that boxing has on his life is evident when he talks about the sport.

"I can tell Gonzalo is passionate about boxing, and

I could not be happier for him to see him victorious in this area," teacher Caylor Travers said.

What is even more amazing is the drive and motivation he has for himself to do well in this. His team teachers, Electric Eels, agreed that when it comes to boxing, he just needs to keep on fighting...and hopefully bringing home more belts.



*Student Gonzalo Cardenas holds his two title belts.*

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# Girls basketball gets championship

**By: Shelby Band and Hailey Talbert**

The lady eagles' basketball team have devoted a lot of time and effort to this season's victories, and in the end it was all worth it.

The practice, hard work, and dedication from the team has lead the team to many victories. The players feel that you can't go on the court without skill and motivation, you need practice. Its players like these that make good basketball players and teams.

"A good basketball player is someone who is willing to work hard, is coachable, and is willing to put in time plus effort to get better." Coach Ramos described.

Throughout the season, the eagles were sweeping the courts, doing anything to stay in district play. Each player has strengths and weaknesses, but said they have to cover each other's back when they know they aren't strong at the play. Some things might be difficult but with the support of others and practice, they can accomplish anything. "I want to be a

starter on the A team and improve my skills." stated Sadie Morelli.

It's not just the players that want to accomplish goals, it's the coaches too.

"I hope to teach our student athletes strong fundamentals and the value of hard work and commitment on the court and in the classroom." Coach Jackson said.

Basketball is a very important part the girl's life and they love it. Jancee Akers, 8th grade says, "If someone was new to the sport and wanted to be on the team, I would encourage them to do their very best."

"I love the intensity of the game." Says Elissa Babba on 7th grade A Team. They are a great example or what a team is.

"A good teammate should encourage you, push you and be there for you." Explains Kalli Revis, 7th

grader, B Team.

On February 3, 2014 Our lady eagles beat El Campo 34-29 in overtime our lady eagles have done a fantastic job this season and finished with 8-2 overall and a 5-0 in district play. The lady eagles were rewarded for all their hard work with a district championship. You have done a fantastic job this season 8TH grade.

Our 7th grade lady eagles have also has a great season on February 3, 2014 they also beat El Campo 28-24. Way to go 7th grade! They finished the season with an overall score of 8-2 and a 4-1 in district play. The Briscoe lady eagles 7th grade A team was rewarded with district runner-up.

But even with the awesome titles our girls took home this season, it's the passion for the sport that really stays with them.

"I love the sport and being able to play as a team with my friends," admitted Lauren Sulak.

## Boys basketball season highlights

**By: Shelby Band and Kavligh Frank**

The boys basketball team 7th and 8th grade have also worked very hard this season.

"The team is good, conditioned, and prepared," Jake Mccune explains.

The Briscoe Boys 8th grade A Team beat Reading Junior High 43-32. Zach Limas, Travis White, D.J Willams, and Jacoby Green are the ones to thank for this amazing win for the Briscoe Eagles that earned us an amazing playing season. The 8th grade A team achieved a 7-2 on the season. Way to go Briscoe Eagles 8th grade A team!

But it takes a lot of practice to get those wins.

"The practices depends on what kind of day it is; if we have a good game, then they will be easy that week but if not then..." player Zach Limas said.

Unfortunately, the epic winning streak of Briscoe against Reading ends there. The Briscoe Eagles 8th grade B team lost to Reading Junior High with a score of 24-34. Brandon Sudkamp, Dillon Fox, Deshaun Rhodes, Grant Guzzetta, Bill Crawford, Will Tomas, and Stephan Stark were the scoring for the Briscoe Eagles. The Briscoe Eagles fell with a score of 8-1 for the season. They have done a wonderful job this season.

The Briscoe 7th grade Eagles B basketball team lost to Reading Jr. High by a score of 11-38. Eagles on offense were Chris Burke, John Lavengco, Chance VanCleave, Dillon Clark.

The 7th grade Eagles A basketball team lost to Reading Jr. High 22-36. Leading the Eagles on offense were Chris Cobbin, Ty Larson, Collin Williams, Amryn Williams, Koleman Hardin, and Micah Osei.

"The team is good, hardworking, and determined," Hardin states.

And the coaches had a great crop of boys to select for the teams this year.

"There were about 90 people and you had to impress the coaches," Hardin said. "About 30 boys made the team."

Tryouts took a lot of hard work, sweat, and determination. They were very challenging, according to the boys.

After a season of wins and losses, it's the attitude of the team, and the skills they learn from their coaches that really matters. It looks like this year was an all around winning season. Way to go Briscoe Eagles you have really set the bar high for next years team.

# Basketball shots



Good job  
Briscoe  
basketball  
teams!



## Iron Eagles: Building strength in character and muscle

**By: Hailey Talbert**

What's a club that a group of boys join to get stronger, stay out of trouble and help the earth? The Briscoe Iron Eagles club of course!

The Iron Eagles is a club build discipline, strength, knowledge and respect out of the boys. For some it's a stress reliever, to others it's just a way to have fun and hang with friends. There are many more reasons why they participate.

Kendrick Oliver said, "[I joined] to get stronger."

The students in the club feel that the longer you stay in the club, the more you learn.

Jacob Aguilar stated, "[I learned that] it's a privilege to lift weights."

This class also emphasizes positivity. The boys are positive to each other and so is the coach. It's a place where the boys can feel strength in accomplishing their goals.

"[My goal is] to bench 200," said Robert Gonzales.

This class doesn't just make mature, respectful men, it also makes leaders. This club has brought them together and made them stronger.

The boys are also helping the earth through it scrap metal recycling program. The boys are in charge of making sure it's taken care of for the school.

Teachers and administrators have seen the positive impact this program has had on its students. With the weights, the students build character, muscle and friendships.

"[I feel like] we're a team in that class, we're a family," said Samir Wehbi.

If you would like to donate any scrap metal contact Coach Mac. Keep up the great work Iron Eagles!



# UIL Students compete for victory

By: Alexis Ruggiero

After weeks of hard and exhilarating training, the Briscoe UIL team went to Bay City Junior High and fought hard against nearby junior highs for competition on January 25.

University Interscholastic League, UIL, is an organization containing students that participate in learning activities to compete against surrounding junior highs.

Vepol Ogwuegbu, 8th grader at Briscoe who placed second in U.S History says, "It was a really close

shot I think. I succeeded with my efforts based on the ranks and the dilemma of not having a team, I prospered."

Vepol received a bronze medal for her determination and effort to win.

Another 7th grader, Ryah Smith, in the listening category says, "I was definitely overcome with apprehension when I entered Bay City Junior High, but was very confident coming out."

The UIL competition contestants were positively enthusiastic and ready to go for first place. Many rose to the occasion.

Way to go to all of the students who participated in, and placed in the UIL competition held in January.



*UIL participants were able to have their behavior rewarded at a final, and well earned, pizza party.*

## UIL Results:

Erin Alexander	Laurel Lopez	1st Place	Art	Academic UIL
Mariam Anne	Ghazi Castronovo	2nd Place	Art	Academic UIL
Alexander Anne	Lopez Castronovo	3rd Place	Art	Academic UIL
Erin Miguel	Laurel Palau	3rd Place	Art Team	Academic UIL
RJ Lance	Hunt Krenek	2nd Place	Art Team	Academic UIL
RJ Miguel	Hunt Palau	2nd Place	Art Team	Academic UIL
Zachary Michael	Williams Colmenares	6th Place	Chess	Academic UIL
Yusef Amyryn	Haikal Williams	1st Place	Chess	Academic UIL
Michael Brody	Williams Colmenares	5th Place	Chess Team	Academic UIL
Ellie Gregory	McLemore Creasey	4th Place	Chess Team	Academic UIL
Emily Gracelynn	Coco Birdshead	5th Place	Chess Team	Academic UIL
Sydney Bao	Kenner Billings	6th Place	Editorial Writing	Academic UIL
Claire Chandler	Han Tran Coffey	4th Place	Math	Academic UIL
William Patrick	Goldreyer Koehlzer	3rd Place	Math	Academic UIL
Patrick William	Koehlzer Rosier	1st Place	Math Team	Academic UIL
William Caroline	Rosier Koehlzer	5th Place	Math Team	Academic UIL
Will Vepol	Billings Sewell	2nd Place	Math Team	Academic UIL
Isaiah Abbey	Oguebe Thomas	2nd Place	Modern Oratory	Academic UIL
Shania Sophia	Coffey Lumbo	3rd Place	Number Sense	Academic UIL
Shania Sophia	Perez Lumbo	4th Place	Number Sense	Academic UIL
Shania Kris	Perez Nguyen	3rd Place	Oral Reading	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Oral Reading	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Ready Writing	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Ready Writing	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Ready Writing	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Science	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Science	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Science Team	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Science Team	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Science Team	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Social Studies	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Social Studies	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Social Studies	Academic UIL
		3rd Place	Spelling	Academic UIL
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# Editorial

## Too Many Tests, Not Enough Time

By: Lauren E. Prince

Testing. It's the worst part of school, and there are so many tests and not enough time for students to prepare for them. There is usually one test a week, but sometimes there are more. Some weeks there are two tests and maybe even a project. It is horrible for students to have so much pressure on them.

The main problem is stress. Most students participate in extracurricular activities, are in high school credit classes, or both. They barely have time to do homework let alone study for two tests and do a project. It is so stressful to handle all this at the same time.

So much stress will hurt the student's brain. They will end up being so stressed and might fail the test, the project, or both. So much stress from all the testing is one of the main reasons students fail.

Not only that, but if a student is stressed, they might stay up at night working and/or studying. Not sleeping will just result in more problems in school. Students will not be able to focus in school. They will probably fall asleep in class which will lead to more bad grades.

Basically if there are less tests, students can do better.

## Not enough test

By: Ashley Beck

Tests. Some of us love them, some of us don't. Some of us are good at them, and some of us aren't. Some say we have too many. Some say we need more. I say we need more.

Some tests are easy, but most are hard. The more we have, the harder it is to fail the class. It's more studying, but the studying makes it easier to remember. More testing will cause us to think more, thus making us smarter.

Tests make us smarter. The more we take, the more we come familiar with the subject. The more we study for the tests, the smarter we become. The smarter we become, the better college we can afford to get

in. Some day you could be walking into Harvard or Yale.

Overall, I believe this school needs more tests, and you should too. Tests can also help you get into college and/or help you graduate from high school. You may think tests are boring, but they will help you with life.

Disclaimer: not all opinions in this editorial are necessarily the views of Ashley Beck, but are therefore required to make for a much more interesting debate on testing. I mean come on, students don't really want more testing. But for the purpose of this story, we do. That is all.

# FFA- A fun and rewarding experience

**By: Bailey Vandomelen**

Are you interested in working with your hands, raising an animal, or learning more about agriculture? Well if so FFA, Future Farmers of America, is where you need to be. Here at Briscoe our FFA has members. FFA students take part in the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, it is a busy, and fun part of the year for the students and the teachers.

“I have never missed the show since I was in 6th grade. I’ve exhibited Brahman heifers and bulls in the show for 10 years and won

various awards and scholarships. Currently I am the captain of team 3 in the calf scramble committee where I do volunteer shifts and help students across the state show animals who could not participate due to financial reasons,” Ms. Schnieder, the teacher, said.

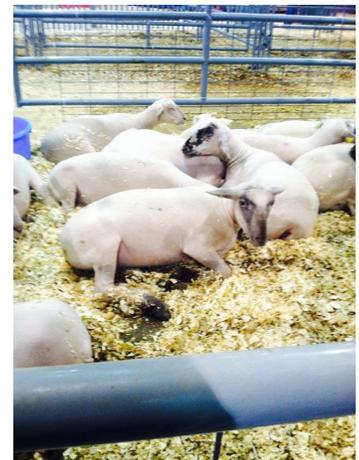
Anna Miller, a FFA student who raises pigs and goats, was inspired to do FFA by one of her good friends, and her brother. They told her how much fun it was. She later recalled that they were right.

“FFA is definitely a challenge. Of course, nothing worth having comes easy,” Miller said.

Wanting more out of his class, and more out of his teacher, inspired Parker Dry to do FFA.

“[FFA has taught me] I can do more than I thought I could, and what you put into something is what you get out of it.” Parker Dry said.

Keep up the great work guys!



# Love was in the air

**By: Bailey Vandomelen and Ashley Beck**

February 14th, a fun, loveable, and enjoyable holiday. The Valentine’s Day cards, red and pink roses, the pounds of chocolate, are some things everyone enjoys getting by their loved ones and friends.

Alexis Ruggiero tells us, “I believe that Valentine’s Day is a holiday for love, compassion, and giving. It also shows that people care and support each other through thick and thin.”

Valentine’s Day wasn’t always a holiday it started all the way back in about

300A.D. when the Roman people still worshiped the stone gods. A man named Valentine, a priest, was thrown into prison for his studies. He was to be put to death for performing a miracle. The miracle was that he cured the jailer’s daughter’s blindness. Legend says that a few hours before Valentine was put to death, he wrote a letter to the jailer’s daughter, and he signed the letter, “From, your Valentine.”

Here at Briscoe you could see the presence of Valentine’s Day through the candy wrappers in trash cans, the stuffed

animals in lockers and all around happy nature of most students.

Plus, we had the big dance. Students we able to change into their nice dresses and get all “dolloed up” for the NJHS school dance. The gym floor was packed as students celebrated the holiday by breaking some moves down, rather than hearts.

Hope your Valentine’s Day was lovely, but if it wasn’t—hey there’s always next year right?

<b>Average annual Valentine’s Day spending</b>	<b>\$13.19 Billion</b>
Number of Valentine’s Day cards exchanged annually	180 Million
Average number of roses produced for Valentine’s Day	196 million
Percent of Valentine’s Day cards bought by women	85%
Percent of flowers bought by men	73%
Percent of women who send themselves flowers on Valentine’s Day	14%
Amount the average consumer spends on Valentine’s Day	\$116.21
Percent of consumers who celebrate Valentine’s Day	61.8 %
Percent of women who would end their relationship if they didn’t get something for Valentine’s day.	53 %

# Brag About it

## Teacher

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"I feel honored because there are so many great teachers here at Briscoe."

- Coach Walters



Congratulations to Coach Bristol for winning the Positive Coaching Alliance's Double-Goal Coach Award.

A poster of his award can be found in the front office and by the gym.

"This means a lot knowing that the coaching staff and student athletes appreciate a double goal coach," Bristol said.

## Paraprofessional

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"I feel so honored to be Paraprofessional of the year. I love Briscoe and all the students and staff."

- Mrs. Widaski



What a great Valentine's Dance! People had fun eating pizza, drinking soda and dancing!



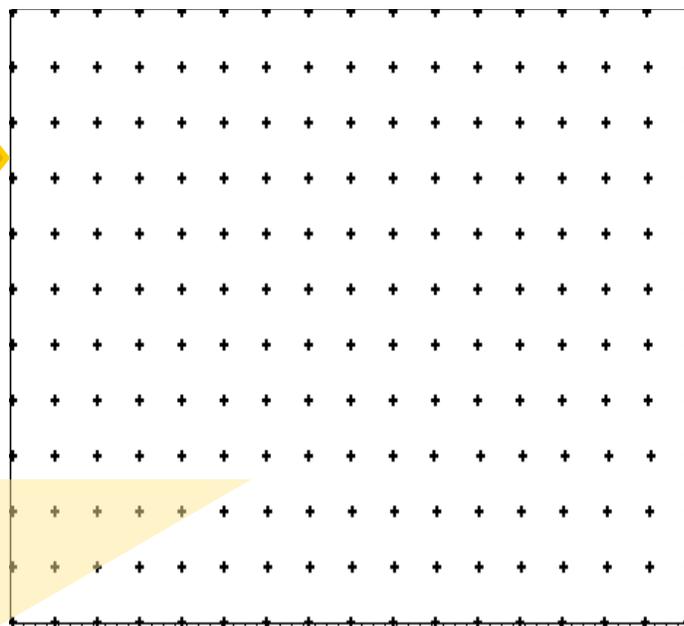
An amazing shot by Collin Williams.

# February– March

# 2013-2014

February 9	10	11	12	13	14	15 men who cook
16	17 presidents day	18 board workshop	19	20 board meeting	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	March 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 spring break	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 board workshop	19	20 board meeting	21	22

Draw a line from dot to dot and the person that makes a box writes their first initial in the box.....ENJOY!!!!!



- For the best friends– God made us best friends because he knew that our moms couldn't handle us as sisters
- For the loved ones- from A to Z the only thing that matters is U and I
- Valentine's Day– Anyone can catch you eye, but it takes someone special to catch your heart.