THE GOLDEN STANDARD
Eclipse Edition
Issue #2: October 2026

Senior Spotlights:

Rain Silva & Eloyse Blanco

BY:DAMARIS AND MIDORI

What is your favorite memory from high school?
My favorite memory from high school is competing at the Show Stopper dance competition. It was a great team bonding experience and we won first and second place, and celebrated by going to Disney Land after.

What are your plans after graduation?
Once I graduate, I am excited to attend the University of Texas at El Paso to major in Dance Education. I also plan on trying out for their dance team so I can keep performing!

What is one thing you will miss most about high school?
The thing I will miss most about YWLA is seeing my friends everyday.

Who has made the biggest impact on you during your high school years?
In my time at YWLA many people have shaped who I am, but the most impactful has been Ms. Segovia. She has always supported and guided me, as well as nurtured my love for dance.

What is one accomplishment you are most proud of?
The accomplishment I feel the most proud of is making the NDA All American dance team this past summer.

What advice would you give to underclassmen?
Don't rush the present. Enjoy as much as you can now and don't be in a hurry to graduate.

What has been your favorite class, and why?
My most favorite class has been any English class I've ever taken. I love reading new books and improving my writing skills.

If you could describe your high school experience in three words, what would they be?
Memorable, transformative, and exciting.

What is one thing you wish you had known as a freshman?
Looking back on my high school years, I wish I would've known that it is just as important to have fun and make memories as it is to stay on top of your work.

Throughout her time at Young Women's Leadership Academy, Eloyse Blanco has proven herself to be an outstanding leader, dedicated student, and an important part of our school community. As Student Council President, she has taken the initiative to organize projects such as the Senior Center Letter Exchange and Wellness Fair, while also representing student voices on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. Her dedication extends beyond the classroom, as she continues to excel as a varsity swimmer while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Eloyse has also made her mark in the fine arts as a UIL state competitor in mariachi and poetry, as well as a theater competitor and member of the Thespian Society. Her accomplishments have earned her recognition through the AP Scholar with Distinction award, the YISD Board of Trustees Recognition of Excellence, and the City Council Pledge Leader recognition in 2025. On top of all this, her commitment to serving others through volunteering shows that her leadership goes beyond titles and awards. Eloyse is a true example of what it means to make the most of every opportunity and leave a positive impact on those around her. As she prepares for her next chapter, we are incredibly proud of everything she has accomplished and grateful to have been part of her sisterhood. Her dedication, achievements, and the memories she has created will continue to inspire our school community, and we cannot wait to see all the amazing things she accomplishes in the future.

SPOOKY STORY CONTEST WINNER!

THE SECRET

BY SOPHYA TORRES BOTELLO

Some doors should never be opened...

Part 1: The room that didn't existed
Everyone at the school knew the story.

Every day at exactly 12:13 p.m., students leaving their classroom claimed to see an extra door in the hallway. Above it was a small, dark sign with the number 31. Teachers dismissed the rumors as imagination. They insisted there were only thirty classrooms, and anyone who claimed otherwise was simply mistaken. Most students eventually forgot about the strange stories. Two boys, however, refused to believe they were just rumors. Their names were Samuel and Julian, and they were best friends. One afternoon, shortly after 12:13 p.m., they saw it for themselves: a dark wooden door at the end of the hallway, marked with the number 31.

"Do you see that?" Samuel whispered.

Julian stared at the door, unable to believe his eyes. Without wasting another second, Samuel took out his phone and snapped a picture.

"We have proof now," he said excitedly. "Nobody can tell us we're imagining things!" Or so he thought.

Part 2: The photograph
The boys hurried back to their classroom and showed the photograph to their teacher. He examined the screen for a moment before looking at them strangely.

"Why did you take a picture of a wall?" he asked. Samuel and Julian exchanged confused glances. They looked at the photograph again. The door was gone. There was only an ordinary hallway wall.

"But we both saw it!" Samuel insisted. Their teacher returned the phone and continued his lesson as though nothing had happened. The boys couldn't stop thinking about what they'd seen. They knew the door had been real. They had both stood in front of it. They had both seen the number 31. And yet, the photograph showed nothing.
Days passed, but Samuel couldn't let the mystery go. Then, one afternoon, the clock approached 12:13 p.m., again.

Samuel turned to Julian: "I'm going to open it."

Julian immediately shook his head. "Are you crazy? What if something happens?"

"What if we never find out what it is?"

Julian wanted to argue, but he could see that Samuel had already made up his mind. When the clock struck 12:13, the door appeared once more. This time, Samuel wasn't going to settle for a photograph.

Part 3: Behind the door
Samuel walked toward room 31.

"Wait!" Julian whispered, glancing nervously down the hallway. " A teacher might see us!"

But Samuel kept walking. Julian stayed outside, watching as his friend reached for the handle. The door creaked open. A strange, unpleasant smell drifted into the hallway. Samuel stepped inside. Then he stopped. He couldn't speak, he couldn't even turn around. Something about the room was terribly wrong. Julian, frightened by his friend's silence, cautiously approached the doorway and peered inside. He froze, too. Before either boy could say a word, a voice spoke behind them.

"Well, well, well... What have we here?" Their teacher stood in the hallway. But something about him was different. His face looked almost normal, yet his expression was so unnatural that Julian felt as though the teacher could see straight through him.

Julian forced an uneasy laugh. "You can see it too, right?"

The teacher tilted his head. "See what?"

Julian pointed toward the open doorway. "The classroom! Room 31! If it exists, then why does everyone say it isn't real?" The teacher's expression didn't change. "Only the weak-minded can see this place." he replied calmly. Samuel remained motionless. The teacher stepped closer and placed a hand on each boy's shoulder.

"You shouldn't have come here," Before they could escape, he pushed them through the doorway, Samuel and Julian stumbled into the darkness. Their teacher followed them inside. The last words they hear before the door slammed shut were: "You shouldn't have seen what was inside." Then everything want silent.

Part 4: 12:20 p.m.
At exactly 12:20 p.m., the door disappeared. The hallway returned to normal. Students walked past the empty wall, teachers continued their lessons. The school bell rang as it always did. Nobody noticed that Samuel and Julian were missing. Nobody searched for them. Not their classmates. Not their teachers. Not even their parents. It was as though the two boys had never existed. Their names vanished from attendance lists. Their desks were assigned to other students. Their photographs seemed to have never been taken.

And the teacher? He returned to his classroom with the same calm expression he always wore. No one questioned him. No one remembered what had happened.

The next day, at 12:13 p.m., a group of students leaving their classroom noticed a dark wooden door at the end of the hallway. Above it was a small sign. 31. One student stopped and stared. "Was that door always there?" His friend shrugged. "I don't know. Maybe?" For a moment, they considered opening it. Then the school bell rang, and they hurried away. The hallway became quiet again. Behind the narrow window of room 31, two figures stood motionless in the darkness. Samuel and Julian were still there. And somewhere, the teacher waited patiently for the next visitors. After all, some secrets are meant to stay hidden.

And some doors should never be opened.

YWLA Alumni Interview: Jin Song

BY: VERONICA ORTEGA

What are you majoring in and why?
I'm majoring in biomedical sciences with a minor in biomedical engineering because this field is a slight bit broad so that I can continue to explore other options but at the same time follow something specific. Im also a huge science and math person and I just enjoy knowing more about both subjects. Lastly there are many interesting things to learn and the opportunities it provides me for hands on research and experience is also very cool.

What habits did you start in YWLA that carried on into college?
Some habits that carried on from YWLA to college is definitely time management skills and how it just felt very natural entering college and knowing how to properly use my time. This ranges from using my free time for studying, hanging out with friends or being at work or just relaxing and rock climbing.

Whats one thing you miss the most about YWLA?
-One thing I miss about YWLA is the shorter walking distance to my classes. And on a sentimental note I miss my teachers and my friends and it's weird not to constantly see familiar faces but its very exciting to see new faces all around campus and the new connections and bonds waiting to happen.

Whats one thing you want to tell the girls at YWLA?
-One thing I'd like to tell the girls at YWLA is that I hope they all know they can reach out to me whenever, even though I might take a minute or two to respond and that I hope they know that they have a support system within the alumni and the network. YWLA definitely prepares you academically for college but don't forget to socialize with others too and know when to dilly dally and frolick around.

Last question, What is your favorite thing about college so far?
-My favorite thing about college is the free time and the gaps I have bewteen my classes and how it provides such a nice sense of independence. I have so much time to frolick and dilly dally.

Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Urbina

BY: ASHLEE VERA

A meaningful impact on students goes beyond the classroom by recognizing everyone's differences and encouraging them to reach their full potential. Mr. Urbina has spent 11 years teaching at schools throughout El Paso, allowing him to learn from and experience different opportunities available to him. He earned his master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix before attending Grand Canyon University to study workforce development. Although many students might recognize him from his visits to their classrooms, not many know the impact he makes on students.

Mr. Urbina demonstrates his passion for teaching by reminding students that, no matter how different they may be from others, they are still capable of pursuing their dreams. One student who reflects this principle is Anthony Diaz, who showed that with discipline and determination, a person can accomplish more than others might expect. Anthony's experiences also helped Mr. Urbina gain a different perspective on the challenges students face. One quote from Anthony that stood out to Mr. Urbina was, "Don't try so hard to learn Braille; you're not blind."

Through his work, Mr. Urbina strives to create a welcoming yet challenging environment for students who may feel different or misunderstood. He encourages students to remain confident in their values and continue working toward their goals, even when times become difficult. His dedication serves as a reminder that success requires more than passion; it also takes hard work, a willingness to learn from others, and support from the people around us.

One fun fact: Outside the classroom, Mr. Urbina enjoys staying active through running and is currently training for races. He considers running one of the ways he maintains a healthy lifestyle outside of work.

Halloween Show and Movie Recommendation

BY: ANGELA MUNOZ-BANDA

Coraline (2009)

As one of the most popular movies out there, Coraline can surely spark some inspiration! Coraline is about a little girl trying to deal with her parents and moving to a new apartment. Some costume ideas such as the Other Mother and Coraline herself really brings attention to the crowd. Other ideas include making a picture frame of the boy with ice cream and making dolls of real life people and giving them out! It might be basic, but it is sure fun!

Alien Stage (2022)

Alien stage is about aliens taking over planet Earth and training young people to become performers on stage. It is not directed in regular storytelling, but instead through music videos of southern korean language showing each characters' own little story, each episode called a "round", being a max of 7 rounds. There are many simple costumes to copy from these characters.

Halloween Costumes

BY: MIDORI MORENO

Halloween is this weekend, so it is time to start thinking about any last minute costumes. Since this is being posted on Monday, people will likely be reading it during Halloween week, which means there is still time to put together a fun look. This year, many of the most popular ideas are inspired by movies, music, video games, and trends taking over TikTok. If you want a costume that feels current, there are plenty of options to choose from.

One popular idea is Spider-Man, especially with the newest movie bringing the character back into the spotlight. You could dress as Spider-Man, Miles Morales, or Spider-Gwen, or create a group costume with friends. Another costume trend is inspired by KPop Demon Hunters. You could dress as one of the main characters, recreate one of their outfits, or wear a colorful demon-hunter-inspired look with bold makeup and accessories.
Music-inspired costumes are another great option. You could dress as a popular singer, recreate a famous red-carpet look, or copy an outfit from a trending music video. Friends can also coordinate costumes by dressing as characters from the same movie, show, or video game.

Whether you choose Spider-Man, a KPop Demon Hunters character, a viral TikTok idea, or something completely original, the best costume is one that feels fun and recognizable. Halloween is almost here, but there is still time during Halloween week to create a look that people will remember.

The Black Cat's Prophecy: Your Libra and Scorpio Horoscope

BY: EMMA MONTOYA

October's horoscope will center on relationships changing and looking into who Libras and Scorpios are emotionally, allowing for personal growth. For example, Libras who struggle to look out for themselves by sacrificing their time and energy for others must put themselves first this month. These Libras who seek constant approval for confidence and self-worth may fall into poor habits due to relying on it too much. Reflection and communication on these relationships will help them move on and grow stronger. Scorpios are becoming someone slightly new as they reinvent themselves while they join in a prominent position. These Scorpios may see the world incomplete this month; they must then see who they are inside. Scorpios this month must focus on themselves and give themselves room to grow to avoid putting too much pressure on themselves.

The Nostalgia Trap: Why Pop Culture is Completely Obsessed with Vintage

BY: EVANGELINA PEINADO

Go into any trendy coffee place, a teen's room, or a clothing store today, and you are bound to step back in time. Vinyl records are outselling CDs, film photography has taken over our feeds, and Y2K fashion is dominated by a generation that wasn't even alive to experience the turn of the millennium. So, why are people so obsessed with vintage? Maybe it helps with an escape from digital overload or offers the emotional comfort of a simpler time and nobody cares what you look like in an Instagram picture dump slide. In a world hyper-focused on the future, pop culture is deeply, hopelessly obsessed with the past. But this fixation goes far beyond a mere appreciation for old-school style. Our collective infatuation with "vintage" is a direct response to the modern world, serving as a psychological refuge, a status symbol, and an escape hatch from the realities of modern life.We live in an era of constant connectivity and severe digital overload. Every monet of our lives is mediated by screens, algorithms, and notifications. In this environment, vintage items provide a much-needed tactical and mental break.When you snap a picture on a vintage film camera or drop a needle onto a vinyl record, you are forced to slow down. You cannot skip a track with a swipe, and you cannot instantly delete a bad photo. This friction is exactly what makes it appealing .Embracing the analog allows us to disconnect from the fast tiring pace of the internet and helps engage with something tangible, tactile, and real.There is a profound emotional comfort in looking backwards in time.The present can feel overwhelming, unpredictable, and heavily scrutinized. Vintage items serve as a reminder of times when life felt inherently simpler, eras before our value was tied to what everyone likes, metrics and how we look in an Instagram carousel slide. Nostalgia acts as an emotional anchor. By surrounding ourselves with retro decor, classic video games, or thrifted clothes, we tap into a romanticized collective memory. It allows us to narrow the perceived peace, stability, and authenticity of a bygone era, providing comfort when modern life is unreadable or too chaotic. Finally, vintage items carry their own visual and physical charm. In a world dominated by mass production, sleek minimalism, and disposable fashion everything can start to look and feel like a uniform. Vintage items have their unique power to make us stop and look in awe. They carry a history, a narrative, and a level of craftsmanship that is hard to find today in the world. The imperfaction-the graininess of film photograph, the crackle of the record, or the faded wash of 90's Nirvana graphic tee-are precisely what give them character,In a culture obsessed with curated perfection, the flaws of the past are the ultimate luxury, Ultimately, our obsession with vintage isn't about rejecting progress in the future in life . It is about balance. By holding onto the best pieces of the past, we find a way to anchor ourselves in a growing digital future.

Whispers Of The Mountain: El Paso's Haunting History

BY SOPHIA LOMELI

The history of El Paso is rich and full of fascinating events, but there is a ghostly side to the beloved history of the Chicano city.

El Paso High School

One of El Paso's most foundational schools is also considered one of the most haunted in the nation. Many legends and stories echo in the halls of the school. El Paso High school first opened its doors in 1912, and the ghostly stories began shortly after. In 1985, a class picture was taken and when it was looked at, students and staff noticed that an unfamiliar figure was in the photo. It appeared to be a girl in a white dress who looked faded and distorted. They looked at enrollment records of that year, and no record was found of the girl, and she became a mystery. She became known as "The Lady On The Hill," which is also the nickname for the school itself. Legend says that she attended the school in the 1920s, but her life ended under mysterious circumstances. Witnesses say they see a girl falling from the building but vanish before she hits the ground. Other stories of El Paso High School include doors closing on their own, green goo dripping from the ceiling, and many other spooky encounters.

Ysleta High School

But El Paso High School is not the only school that has shadows lurking in the night; Ysleta High School is also known for its ghostly encounters. The school is said to have a statue of a Native American man that moves as well as ghosts in the bathrooms. We recently connected with a student who attends Ysleta to tell us their personal experiences with the haunted building. In the medical room, a student shared to us that there is a ghost who goes by the name "David". The student says, "He likes to move the chandelier when we don't play Brittany Spears, and he spins it fast too." Unrelated to the ghost David, the student also mentioned that janitors have experienced hearing voices when no one else is in the building, as well as lights flickering or seeing shadows. But Ysleta embraces their haunted atmosphere offering ghost tours during the halloween season allowing students and families to enjoy the ghostly voyage.

The Plaza Theatre

The Plaza Theatre is a historical establishment, and opened in 1930. It currently operates as a home for Broadway and theatrical productions, as well as concerts. But it also has a long history of ghost sightings, mysterious sounds, and paranormal lore including apparition of a man smoking on the balcony. It been reported by multiple sources throughout the years, as well as the spirit of a young girl who is frequently reported near the back rows and grand lobby accompanied by the sound of giggling and a bouncing ball. And, stories describe a man in 1940s attire or an ash covered male figure who fell or stood near the mezzanine/second-story rail, and sometimes you can see an odd glowing red-orange light resembling a cigarette. But besides its spooky activity, it is a phenomenal destination of bright show lights and amazing events.

El Paso has many fascinating legends within its mountainous region, and will continue to be beloved regardless of its eerie side.

Witchy Word Search

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A	R	H	E	G	F	U	L	L	M	O	O	N	O
S	H	C	A	B	R	C	O	R	A	C	I	O	C
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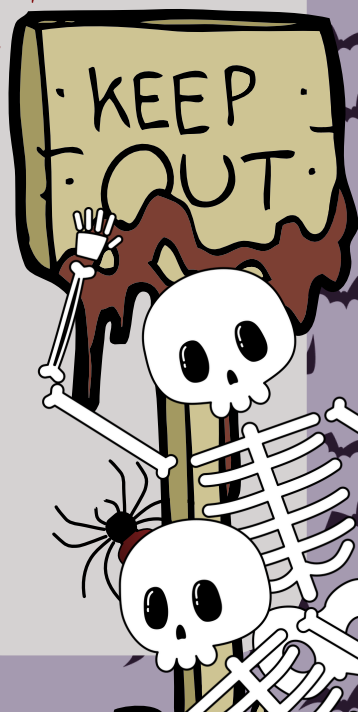
MUMMY
COBWEBS
CAULDRON
VAMPIRE
PUMPKIN PATCH
HALLOWEEN
CANDY CORN
FULL MOON
TRICK OR TREAT
SCARECROW
OCTOBER
GRAVEYARD
HAUNTED HOUSE
BAT
BLACK CAT
WITCH
ZOMBIES
BROOMSTICK

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