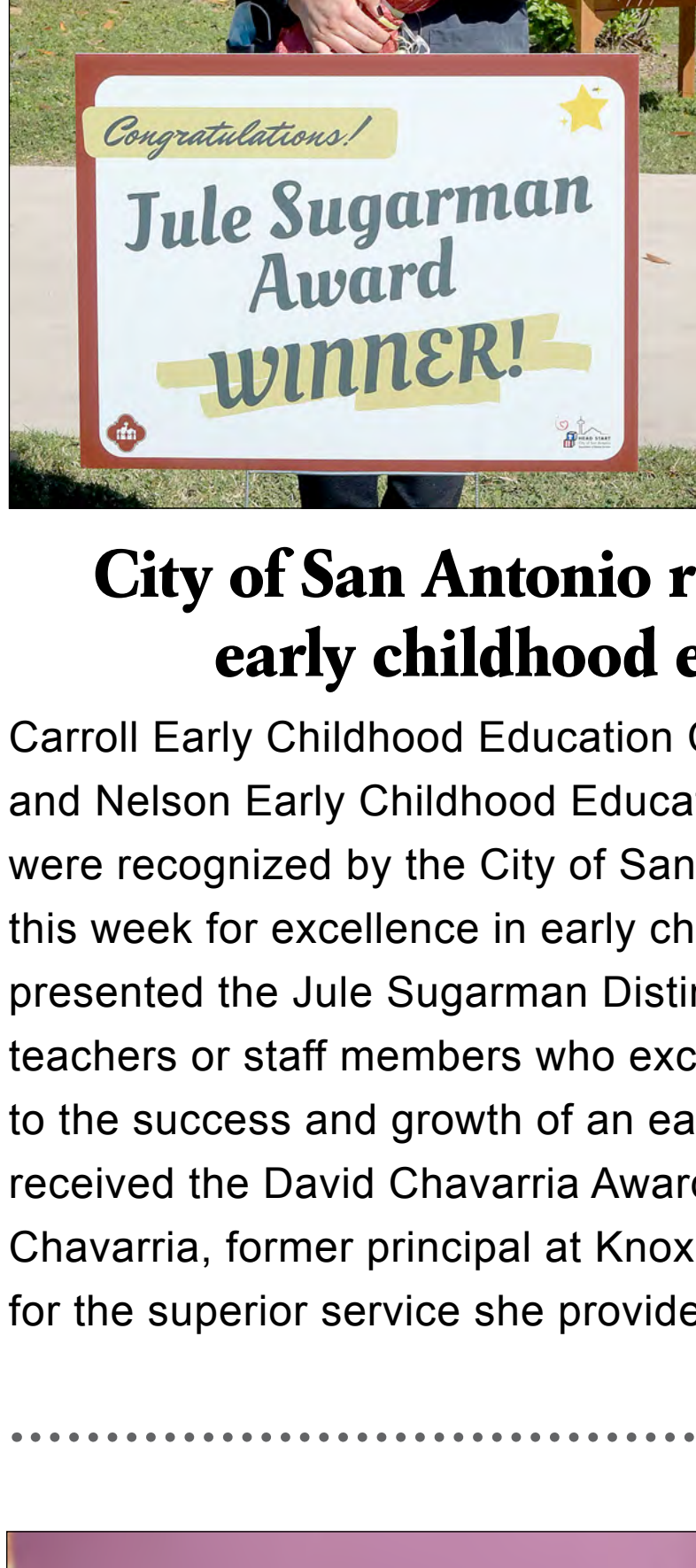


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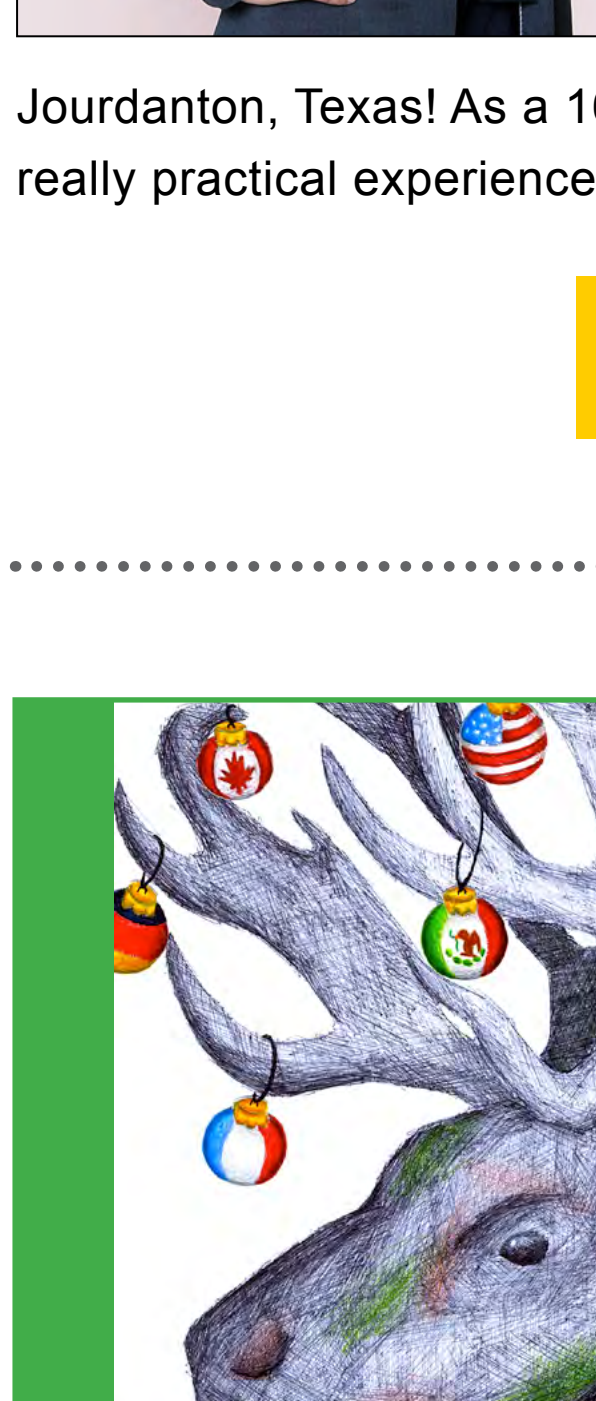
## City of San Antonio recognizes excellence in early childhood education at SAISD

Carroll Early Childhood Education Center Teacher Ana Valeria Gonzalez and Nelson Early Childhood Education Center Principal Marisa Mendez were recognized by the City of San Antonio Head Start Program earlier this week for excellence in early childhood education. Gonzalez was presented the Jule Sugarman Distinguished Staff Award, which honors teachers or staff members who exceed expectations and contribute to the success and growth of an early childhood program. Mendez received the David Chavarria Award, given in honor of the late Mr. David Chavarria, former principal at Knox Early Childhood Education Center, for the superior service she provides to children and families.

## Nov. 18 was Education Support Professionals Day

This year San Antonio ISD has seen our Education Support Professionals go above and beyond as they work to meet the needs of SAISD students and families amid a pandemic. Thank you to each and every education support professional for their work today and every day. Join *insider* as we take a look at a morning in the life of Patricia Perez, data clerk at Margil Elementary School, who treats her school family like she treats her own family – with love and care.

MEET MISS PATTII!



## Alumna, education expert touts SAISD experience

Meet Marisa Pérez-Díaz. A graduate of Edison High School and District 3 State Board of Education member, Pérez-Díaz is one of San Antonio ISD's many graduates who attended a specialized program during her time at SAISD. "My experiences at the Edison Health Professions magnet program were just incredible," she said. "My junior year, I got to go on rounds with EMTs in

Jourdanton, Texas! As a 16-year-old, I was getting to participate in really practical experiences; it was incredible for me."

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## Congrats to this year's student-designed Holiday Card Contest winners!

Every year San Antonio ISD students in grades Pre-K through 12 enter the Holiday Card competition for the chance to win cash prizes and art supplies, and to have their design featured in SAISD's Holiday Card set! This year, the theme was Holidays Around the World. Congratulations to our students who won their age division. Want some of these Holiday Art Contest Cards for yourself? Order now! The deadline for ordering is Dec. 14.

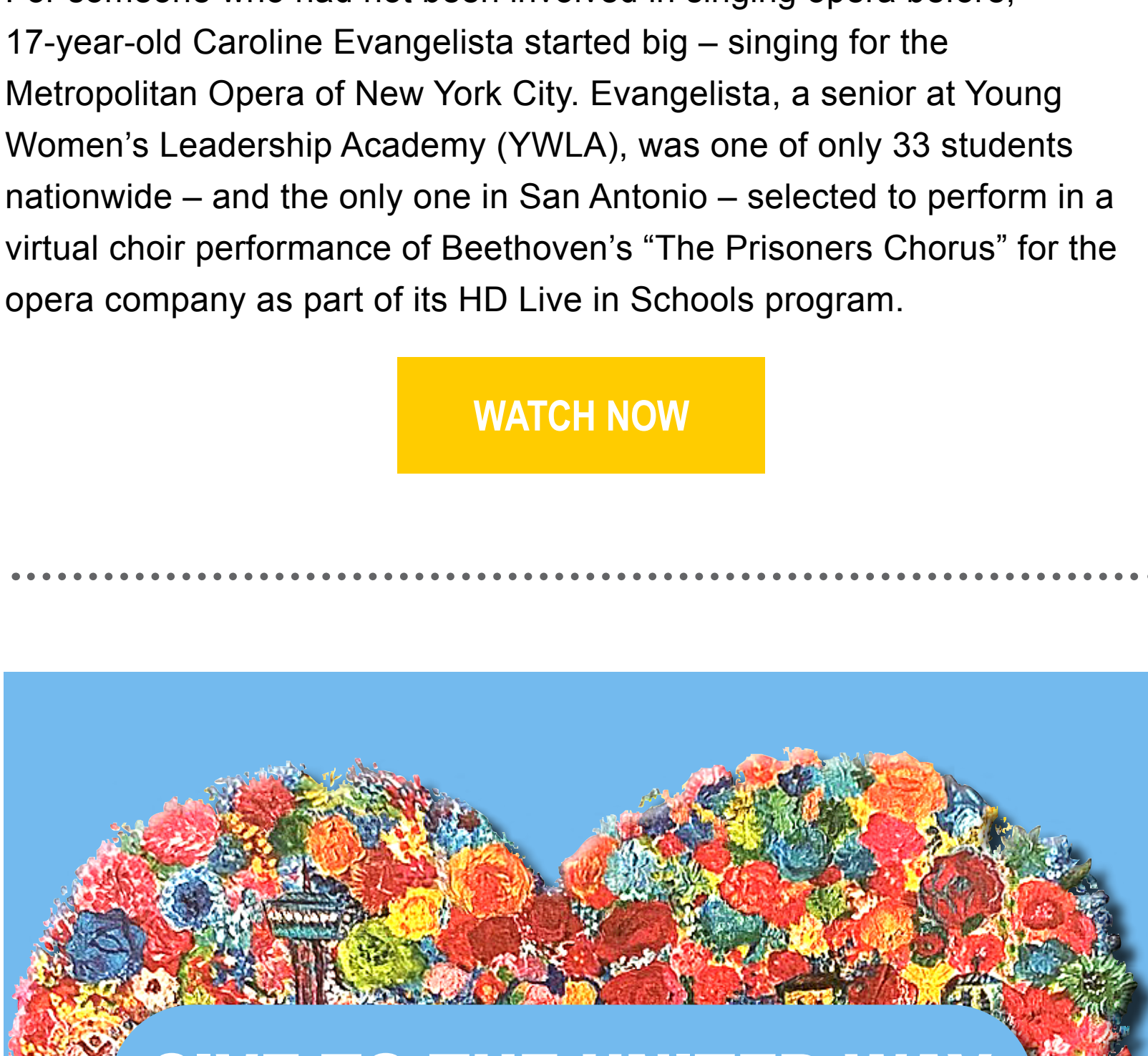
ORDER HERE! \$10.50/SET



## Students Combine art, medicine at CAST Med

When Michael Gracia came to CAST Med last year as a freshman, he knew he would be learning the ins and outs of medicine and biomedical research. What he and his classmates didn't know was that by the end of their freshman year, they were going to end up producing gallery-quality art that now lines the school's hallways.

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## Community partnerships give Book Buddies program a fresh start

The SAISD Foundation is expanding its support of student experiences in SAISD through Book Buddies, a program providing free books to SAISD students in grades Pre-K through 8, allowing them to start and grow their own home libraries. "We are thrilled that Book Buddies is now a program of the SAISD Foundation and look forward to expanding to serve even more students across San Antonio ISD," said Judy Geelhoed, executive director, SAISD Foundation.

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## San Antonio high schooler sings for Metropolitan Opera

For someone who had not been involved in singing opera before, 17-year-old Caroline Evangelista started big – singing for the Metropolitan Opera of New York City. Evangelista, a senior at Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA), was one of only 33 students nationwide – and the only one in San Antonio – selected to perform in a virtual choir performance of Beethoven's "The Prisoners Chorus" for the opera company as part of its HD Live in Schools program.

WATCH NOW



## Choice Schools & Magnet Programs application window is now open

Applications are now being accepted for 2021-22 Choice Schools & Magnet Programs. Students in all grades from all over Bexar County and surrounding areas are welcome to apply. Included for 2021-22

are the addition of two Choice Schools and three new P-TECH Choice Programs! The district and the campuses are hosting virtual Parent Information Sessions between now and the start of the 2021-22 school year. Interested families can also learn about all of next year's Choice Schools & Programs offerings and submit an application at [saishchoice.org](https://saishchoice.org).



## Pep rally on wheels

Yesterday, a school bus and numerous teachers' vehicles participated in "The Whittier Express," a motivational parade – or pep rally, if you will – to remind families how much Whittier Middle School cares for its students and wants them to succeed. "The main purpose for our parade is to remind students how much we care about them during this difficult time," said Dr. Armando Gallegos, principal at Whittier. "We want to remind them that this is not a time to give up and stop trying. Whether they are learning in person or virtually, we want them to give 110%. There's always going to be someone at Whittier who believes in you!" Other schools have done similar community events around the District to help increase student and family engagement during virtual learning.



## Enjoy your Thanksgiving Break!

SAN ANTONIO ISD SCHOOLS AND OFFICES  
WILL BE CLOSED NOV. 23-27, 2020

