

# Golf tourney set to raise scholarships

## PAGA event Saturday looks to collect \$12K

By Andrew Atterbury

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SAN ANGELO, Texas — Willie Flores joined the San Angelo chapter of the Pan American Golf Association because he knows how beneficial scholarships are to students pursuing a higher education.

“When I went to college there wasn’t anyone there to help,” said Flores, PAGA president.

“We have a bunch of good kids in this town. It means a lot to have a little boost when you start college and to know someone is behind you.”

PAGA has chipped in \$60,000 worth of scholarships to San Angelo seniors in the past six years. Members hope this Saturday’s 31st annual Scholarship Tourney will raise enough to make a \$1,000 divot in the college costs of 12 freshmen.

“Our No. 1 goal for the year is this fundraiser,” said Thomas Delgado, vice president. “We have tournaments, but this is our big deal.”

A scholarship committee within the organization will sift through 43 applicants to pick the winners, Flores said.

One perk of the award is that recipients do not have to be golfers, said former recipient Brooklyn Dendle.

Now a marketing major at ASU, Dendle said the committee takes student leadership into account.

“The scholarship tells you that you are doing some good things in life and you’re on the right path,” she said. “It helps a lot with freshman year — tuition, books, room and board — you never know what it’s going to cost.”

There was room for 32 four-man teams at the tournament, and 30 have been filled, Flores said.

More than 130 members make up the San Angelo PAGA, founded in 1966. The group tries to golf together once a week and has tournaments twice a month.

The next major event is the national PAGA tournament in San Antonio. The national PAGA has more than 2,600 members.

“Of all the chapters in the U.S., I think we give the most scholarships next to San

Antonio,” Flores said.

The group plays in scholarship tournaments across the state and occasionally in Oklahoma.

“People think it’s a lot of guys who drink beer and play golf, (but) it’s not that,” he said. “We help the community.”

“We get the kids off to college. I wish we could help them all four years.”



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