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## A Full Plate

### Teen makes time for studies, job and skateboarding

By EDWINA P. GARZA

Daniel Sosa has a number of different activities on his plate right now. In between his jobs at the city of San Benito, Church's Chicken and skateboarding around the city's different parks, he's studying to complete his GED.

Originally from Modesto, Calif., the 17-year-old has lived around a number of Texas cities. His family is spread out in both Texas and California.

"I'm back and forth," he explained.

Since December, Sosa has been working toward his GED.

"I just want to finish school," he said inside the South Texas Adult Resource and Training Center where he's been studying.

"It's been great, the instructor is a really good teacher."

Sosa began his quest in taking his GED tests in early May. The courses helped him realize his desire to attend college, he said. In fact, just as he began taking the tests for his GED, which include the five core subjects of math, reading, writing, social studies and science, he started to fill out his application for financial aid and started looking at colleges.

Like most teenagers, Sosa said he's interested in computers.

"They're real fun to mess with," he said of computers. "I want to learn how to do networking and maybe run my own business someday."

Through the START Center, Sosa also earned a job. For the past few months he said he's been working at City Hall where he mostly deals with paperwork. The job, which can sometimes entail paper shredding, isn't very exciting, but Sosa said it has provided him with unique experiences he may not have ever gotten.

"This place has helped me a lot," he said. "The program and getting the job have really helped me stay on track."

As he skates around the city, Sosa said he immediately sees the difference in his hometown and San Benito.

"It's a lot different than anywhere I've been," he said. "It's so small, everybody knows everybody. You run into everyone you know."

Though he enjoys being near family, Sosa said he anticipates taking the skills he's learned at City Hall and the START Center to a bigger city once he receives his GED.

"Maybe I'll go to a larger city, since it's what I'm used to," he said.

Submit Slice of Life suggestions to Managing Editor Lucio Castillo or City Editor Charlene Vandini at 430-6239 or [charlenev@valleystar.com](mailto:charlenev@valleystar.com).

