

The Badger

Yearbook Staff

First Six Weeks

Celebration of Success

by: Elizabeth Trdy

It is time for Buckholts to celebrate, and that is exactly what they did. Saturday, August 25, 2018! Before Buckholts I.S.D began their school year there was a community wide celebration. The celebration was in honor of Buckholts I.S.D being released from Texas Education Agency's "improvement required" status. For the entire evening: food, fun, dancing and music filled the streets of our small determined and proud town! When asked what her favorite part of the celebration was, Mrs.Sandlin stated: "The street dance! I didn't get to dance much, but the photos on Buckholts.info showed that a fun time was had by all". There were a lot of people who showed up to celebrate this amazing miracle that happened in our school. Mrs.Sandlin also stated, "I thought it was a great success. We had state officials, Region 6 representatives, many parents and students, and teachers. We served over 120 hotdogs."

The students, administration, and staff are very thankful to the School Board, David Meinardus, Leslie Lorenz, Margaret Green, Barbara Kuzel, and the community for all the help pulling off the celebration. David Meinardus and Leslie Lorenz donated buns and hotdogs. David Meinardus also grilled the hotdogs over pecan wood. Mrs. Green and Mrs. Kuzel donated desserts. Lastly, the community provided the chips and condiments.

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Kicking Off the Season

by: Julissa Cardona

This season the Buckholts Badgers are off to a rocky start with many players being injured. Seniors, Christian Kessler, and Victor Baez, have been out for quite some time due to neck injuries. I spoke with both Christian and Victor, and they are both very emotional about not getting to play their senior year and wishing they could help their team. When the players were asked, "Do you think you let your team down?" Both responded, "Absolutely!" They lost a starter and had to adjust the playbook due to their injuries. Not only are these two boys emotional about the football season, they are very limited to what they can do otherwise. They are trying to go day by day. When Baez was asked, "How are you handling yourself, mentally, and physically?" He responded by explaining, "Mentally, I'm just trying to handle all of these emotions. It hurts me standing on the sideline watching my team and not being able to play. Physically, I have to rebuild myself and become better." Everyone can agree, we lost two great players, who show dedication and heart on the field. Although, there is not much anyone can do, we all have to pray and let our players be within God.



Behind the Scenes of the FFA and the Ag Industry

by: Jenna Meinardus

It is sad to say, but not many kids know about the FFA, what it stands for, or what all of the benefits are. There are countless opportunities to be the best person you can be. The FFA is not just about showing an animal, it is so much more. The values a kid can learn throughout the raising of an animal, taking care of it, and being responsible for that animal, is priceless. Anything a kid does inside of the FFA Industry can only benefit them! I have heard many people say that, "Ag students are some of the most respectful, and most hard working kids you will ever meet!" This statement has been proven to be true for generations, and is sure to continue for generations to come.

My brother, Cooper, started showing rabbits and goats in the sixth grade. If you were lucky enough to know Cooper before then, you would know that he was the quietest and most shy person you would meet. Ever since he started showing and meeting new people, seeing how things work, visiting new places, and just "getting out there," he has become a whole new person. He then began showing rabbits and goats, chickens, cattle, sheep, and helping others show their livestock. He has won many awards. Among his most prestigious awards is Grand Champion Broilers at the Houston Livestock and Rodeo, largest livestock show in the world!

The truth is, every kid that shows, judges, competes in the many contests the FFA has to offer will no doubt experience a time of their life. Also, once you become a senior in highschool, you can continue to show and compete at the collegiate level! AND there are many scholarship opportunities available for FFA students.

Celebration of Success

by: Elizabeth Trdy

cont. The celebration's main goal, Mrs. Sandlin said, was "to bring the community together to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work of the students and the teachers." We definitely accomplished that goal. Everyone had an amazing time and danced the night away without the stress of being in "improvement required."

The students and teachers here at Buckholts I.S.D are very excited and extremely happy. Coming out of "improvement required" definitely lifted a gigantic weight off of everyone's shoulders who attend Buckholts and all of the faculty that put their hard work and dedication into each and every one of these students. I asked Mrs. Sandlin how proud she was of the students and she further added, "They are amazing! They are why the teachers and I are still here.. We definitely have a strong and supportive superintendent who would do anything for the students and make sure they have an amazing education.

Since coming out of "improvement required" Mrs. Sandlin has many more things in store to push the students to achieve their dreams. When asked what her next goals are, Mrs. Sandlin responded by saying, "Make an A+! Now that we have enough dual credit courses to offer an associates degree, AP and Pre-AP courses, and NHS I want to see that you guys make it to state in U.I.L. I want to add robotics, and maybe a Cross X team, debate, and CTE courses."

We truly have an amazing support system in this school that will push every student to reach their goals. The celebration definitely couldn't have been possible without the students of Buckholts I.S.D. Keep working hard and we can achieve anything we put our minds to!

Day in the Life of..!

by: Ashlyne Kessler

A staff member that inspires me to face any problem, no matter how hard, because you can overcome any obstacle is, Diana Mansel. She has overcome many difficulties in her life. This is a story about a day in the life of Diana, "Dee" Mansel.

I interviewed Ms. Mansel, and I asked her "What was it like growing up deaf in both ears?" She explained, "I did not become deaf until later in life. It was at the age of three that my parents took me to the doctor because they suspected I had a hearing impairment. I was then fitted with two hearing aids. As I grew older my hearing loss gradually increased and by the age of thirty-two I was totally deaf."

I wanted to know her thoughts and feelings growing up. I wanted to know if she was sad, so I asked her "How it was for her growing up? Ms. Mansel said that "It was hard growing up becoming deaf. I had to work harder and learn to read lips and then I had to learn sign language. Having four older sisters growing up made it easier because if I did not hear something they would let me know what I missed. They were always there for me. Growing up and becoming deaf was very difficult because I missed out on a lot of things other kids my age were doing such as music and watching television and movies. I had a hard time with other kids my age because I was singled out because I was different. I did not get to have a lot of friends or participate in things other kids were doing, so that made it even more difficult. I was bullied because of my hearing loss, and I learned how to turn that into a positive thing in my life and reach out and help others."

Behind the Scenes of the FFA and the Ag Industry

by: Jenna Meinardus

cont. The Ag Industry is steadily growing with many opportunities for college students and non college students. Many jobs can be made through the ag industry, as well as, lifelong friendships, mentors, etc. There are countless positive opportunities that come out of the FFA and the Ag Industry! When I asked a former ag student and a now Ag Enthusiast, Mr. Cox about how he has benefitted, he stated, "I have met so many people now who are my friends and who have been my friends for years and years. Because of the FFA I can pick up the phone, punch in a number, call one of my buddies and ask them for anything. Say, if I needed some blades sharpened for my clippers, they'd do it for me, and if they couldn't at the time, they'd give me the number of someone who could do it. There truly are so many great people in this industry." Buckholts ISD Ag Teacher, Mr. Marshall, states in an interview, "I do it for the kids. If any kid comes to me saying they want to show an animal or build a project, we make it work. In most cases, money can be an issue but I will always work around that to be sure any kid can participate."

Any kid that is enrolled in public or private school that is in the seventh grade or above, can pay membership dues to be apart of an FFA Chapter. These close-knit chapters become families. The earlier your child becomes part of a chapter, the better! Being involved in the FFA is what shaped me into who I am today. I have learned many leadership skills, loads of confidence, how to maintain my responsibilities, good sportsmanship and work ethics, and many scholarship opportunities. The possibilities are endless in this great program.

Student Drivers

by: Juan Melendez

There are many ways to get to school, some students get dropped off by their parents/other relatives, while other students drive themselves to school. This story goes behind the scenes of students that drive and shows a little bit of what goes through their mind while they drive. A few students were interviewed about their experience when it comes to driving their vehicles to school. It turns out that the majority of the student drivers do not have a driver's license, although they do have a driver's permit and are currently working to obtain their license.

They feel comfortable driving to school and they do not feel nervous or scared because they are quite experienced. What is also baffling is that the student drivers started driving at an early age, as early as 6 years old!

In conclusion, student drivers are experienced in driving and are quite good at it. Although they do not have a driver's license, they are safe and responsible drivers, and do not behave in a way that would put themselves and others in danger.



A Day in the Life of..!

By: Ashlynn Kessler

cont. "The doctors believed I was born hard of hearing due to bone dysfunction. Throughout my teen years my hearing continued to grow worse and by the age of 22 I was completely deaf in one ear and ten percent in the other. At the age of thirty-two I was totally deaf, and at the age of thirty-five I was told I was a perfect candidate for an implant surgery so, in 1994 I had the Cochlear implant put in my right ear. Over the years with the help of the implant my ability to understand sounds increased but without the implant I am totally deaf."

It was not easy growing up with the hearing impairment but I overcame every struggle that I faced and had five amazing and healthy kids whom all had perfect hearing. I have worked with kids for the past eighteen years in daycares and schools and even taught sign language for many years. I went to college as much as I could with the busy life I had and took every opportunity to learn what I could. Even though I had to face struggles that others did not have to face, it made me into the person that I am today and I am very proud of the person I have become."

I chose to write about Diana Shelton because she inspires me to be the best I can be. She proves that there are no reasons or excuses a person cannot achieve a goal. She had many obstacles in her life that would bring down anyone but, being herself, she didn't let any problem affect her or affect the way she looks at life.

Mighty Badger

by: Julissa Cardona

We all have that one friend that brightens anyone's day. For me, that friend happens to be Issacc Alvarez. Issacc is in the 11th grade and goes to Buckholts High School. He participates in football and basketball. When Issacc was asked, "What makes you happy?" his response was, "my friends and family." Issacc is a very genuine person, he thinks about others before himself. He's a great person to be around and it's always a fun time. Issacc's cousin, Natalie Avila says, "He's a very lovable person, and is very funny. He'll make you laugh no matter what. He's always been there for me as a cousin and a friend." Issacc is a very great young man, and will do great things in life.



Badgers Run Their Way to the Regional Cross Country Meet

by: Elizabeth Trdy

Our Buckholts Badgers ran their hearts out at the district cross country meet on Wednesday, September 26th, 2018. The meet was hosted by Oglesby in Moody, Texas. Overall the Buckholts Badgers did an amazing job in taking home some wonderful plaques that they will forever remember.

First, the Varsity girls ran around 3:30 p.m. We had three girls place, and the other five came in with times that were great and got us second place as a team! There were eight girls running from Buckholts. Seven ran varsity and made up the team, and one ran for our Junior Varsity. Whitney Evans placed 3rd in the race then came in Marissa Labrada placing 5th, and Elizabeth Trdy 10th. The amazing Badger cross country team is: Marissa Labrada (Sr.), Mekayla Moore (Sr.), Elizabeth Trdy (Jr.), Natalie Avila (Jr.), Ashlynn Kessler (Jr.), Whitney Evans (Soph.), Victoria Tatum (Fr.), and Gina Melendez (Fr.).

Then, the Varsity boys ran an impressive race and, three of our boys placed, and the others came in with amazing times that got the boys second place as a team! Chris Lopez placed 3rd, Caleb Lopez placed 7th, and Kenneth Shelton placed 9th. The Varsity boys cross country team is: Chris Lopez (Sr.), Caleb Lopez (Sr.), Zachary Magee (Sr.), Christian Kessler (Sr.), Kenneth Shelton (Jr.), and Michael Abila (8th gr.). However, Christian Kessler was unable to run because of football injuries.

Our Junior High runners also did amazing. The girls ran and had three girls place in the top ten. The girls who ran were: Aubree Ralston, Kassandra Benavidez, Danielle Tatum, and Cecilia Abila. Unfortunately, there were not enough girls to make a team, but they still went out there and ran their hearts out. Aubree placed first, Kassandra placed third, and Danielle placed sixth overall. The boys who ran were: Ivan Baez, Fabian Baez, RJ Vega, Eusebio Luciano, and Kane Haley. Ivan placed first, and Fabian placed seventh in the top ten. They placed second altogether as a team, and did extremely well! These kids are definitely going places!

Wednesday was definitely a successful day for both Varsity and Junior High runners. Since both boys and girls Varsity teams qualified, and are advancing to regionals, they will be training and practicing extremely hard to try their best when October 22nd comes around. The regional cross country meet will be in Corpus Christi. Watch out Regionals, because here come the Badgers!

Mighty Lady Badger

By: Jenna Meinardus

Sixteen -year -old, eleventh grader, Ashlynn Kessler is the sweetest person I have ever met, in all honesty. Anything you ask of her, she will do in a timely manner. Not much phases Ashlynn! She is kind and easy going.

Ashlynn has been a Buckholts Badger for five years. She joined our class in sixth grade and has fit in perfectly ever since. Ashlynn says she wanted to become a student at Buckholts ISD because, "I wanted to become closer to people in a smaller school. Since sixth grade I have accomplished so many things such as; participating in Student Council, UIL, NHS, Yearbook, FFA and all sports including Volleyball, Basketball, Cross Country, and Track. Since I have been in Buckholts, I have gotten close to so many people and I feel as if we are all a little family." When asked how she sees herself ten years from now, Ashlynn states, "In ten years I see myself having a family, and being successful in my career and in life." Ashlynn is a very determined person in any and everything she does.

Few people in this world possess very few of all of the qualities Ashlynn possesses. With that being said, no one can compare to her! She has many people backing her and can speak great things about her! So, if you get the chance, watch Ashlynn and how she handles things. You might be surprised on what this five foot tall girl can teach you.



Bullying

By: Julissa Cardona

Bullying is an ever increasing issue in our society. According to the BISD students handbook, "Bullying is defined as the use of superior strength or the influence to intimidate someone typically to force a person to do what one wants. Bullying happens almost anywhere, and many people fall victim to an oppressor's torments." Yet, bullying is still an issue.

The administrators, teachers and staff of BISD work hard to respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior in order to send the message that bullying IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, period. Students are encouraged to talk about bullying to parents, teachers, and community leaders.

In addition, it is important for students to always treat others with respect. It is also important for every student to learn the importance of thinking before they speak. A good rule of thumb is to never say anything to anyone that could hurt them or they could possibly take the wrong way. Words are like toothpaste, once you spew them out, they can never be put back. Also, determined to just never mean to someone, it is easier said than done, however, being mean to someone never pays off.

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