Congratulations, Class of 2018!

story on page 10-12
Hillsboro ISD held their annual Spring Relays for students with special needs involving 15 schools, 160 student athletes, 120 student volunteers, 50 adult volunteers, and support from Hillsboro Lions Club and Atmos Energy.

“The event is always such a fun time for the kids,” Kathy Groppel, Director of Special Education, said. “Watching the crowd cheer on the athletes and their ‘buddies’ is such a special moment.”

At the beginning of the event, each athlete chooses a ‘buddy’ that they get to play games with and have with them for the entire day. Some of the buddies even run the races with them.

Atmos Energy sponsored a free lunch for all participants. Hillsboro police officers spend the day conducting field sobriety tests, discussing what they do in their position, what types of calls they’ve seen, and the importance of safety belts. There is also a prosecutor who speaks about the legal implications of driving while intoxicated, influenced, or distracted.

“I think it is important for our student body to participate in these programs (Blurred Reality and Shattered Dreams) because it helps them see what their actions may do, what level of consequences they can end up with, and how it can affect people around them,” Michelle Hernandez, President of SADD, said. “This year the program was held before prom to remind our fellow classmates to not be distracted or under the influence while driving.”

Blurred Reality is presented every other year to Hillsboro Junior High School and Hillsboro High School students with Shattered Dreams occurring in the off years at HHS. Shattered Dreams is a drunk driving reenactment complete with emergency response vehicles, crashed cars, and involves HHS students and staff.

“I loved seeing the community of Hillsboro come together, present the programs, and show students the consequences of unsafe driving,” Hernandez said. “Getting the junior high school students to participate in these events shows them at a young age the implications of unsafe driving since they’ll be driving soon.”

Leadership Greater Hillsboro, working in conjunction with the City of Hillsboro, Hill County Master Gardeners, and HHS woodworking/welding classes, completed the beautification pocket park project at the intersection of Country Club Road and Franklin Street.

The pocket park is available for community members to enjoy. Additionally, it will be conveniently located for Franklin Elementary School students to learn about plants, pollination, and the life cycle of butterflies. Benches at the new park were made by HHS students.

15 SCHOOLS
160 ATHLETES
120 STUDENT VOLUNTEERS
50 ADULT VOLUNTEERS
Top Graduating Students Honored at the Eagle Legacy Awards Banquet

The Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation honored 14 graduating Hillsboro High School seniors representing the top 10 percent of students in academic achievement at the Eagle Legacy Awards Banquet on May 19. The distinguished students, their honored employee, and their parents and guests enjoyed a catered dinner, desserts provided by Hillsboro High School culinary students, and were served by members of the National Junior Honor Society. In addition to the recognition of the students’ achievements, each senior recognized and thanked an educator or mentor for their influence. The Foundation rewarded each student with a $500 scholarship for their accomplishments.

“This night really is all about honoring the hard work these students have put in over the past four years,” Deb Hanson, Executive Director of the Education Foundation, said. “We appreciate our donors for giving us the opportunity to honor these students.”

Graduate and College:

Graduate: Jade Bontke
College: University of Texas at Arlington
Most Influential Educator: Sara Massey

Graduate: Brianna Cheek
College: Texas A&M University
Most Influential Educator: Kyle Bodeker

Graduate: Reyes Fuentes
College: Tarleton State University
Most Influential Educator: Damaris Nuuanu

Graduate: Paloma Montes
College: Hill College
Most Influential Educator: Michael Chirhart

Graduate: Robert Montgomery
College: Navarro College
Most Influential Educator: Tayler Sullivan

Graduate: Colton Pace
College: Baylor University
Most Influential Educator: Kyle Davis

Graduate: Bhakti Patel
College: University of Texas at Dallas
Most Influential Educator: Schivonne John

Graduate: Saori Rojas
College: Tarleton State University
Most Influential Educator: Cortlin White

Graduate: Colby Satterfield
College: Oklahoma State University
Most Influential Educator: Kevin Lewis

Graduate: Autumn Snider
College: University of North Texas
Most Influential Educator: Terri Curry

Graduate: Gabrielle Tidwell
College: Hardin-Simmons University
Most Influential Educator: Tayler Sullivan

Graduate: Josue Trejo
College: University of Texas at Dallas
Most Influential Educator: Kyle Bodeker

Graduate: Philip Turull
College: Full Sail University
Most Influential Educator: Molly Hale

Graduate: Hannah Wise
College: Texas A&M University
Most Influential Educator: Karen Schroeder

The Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation honored Founding Director Katharine Matthys at this year’s Eagle Legacy Awards Banquet. Retiring this year, Matthys worked at Hillsboro ISD for 13 years and laid the groundwork for starting Hillsboro ISD’s Education Foundation in Hillsboro nine years ago. During her time with the Education Foundation, close to $270,000 was awarded in grants and scholarships.

“Katharine was tireless in her devotion to the Education Foundation. Nothing was too big for her to tackle,” Ann Teel, Hillsboro Intermediate School Librarian and former Education Foundation Executive Secretary, said. “I am privileged to call her my coworker and friend. The Foundation truly flourished and was extremely successful under her direction.”

The Education Foundation welcomed a new Executive Director, Deb Hanson, this year.

HES Awarded Region 12 Technology Grant

The Education Service Center (ESC) Region 12 Technology Foundation surprised Christine Robinson from Hillsboro Elementary School (HES) with a $10,000 grant for new science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) materials and technology products.

“This year we’re focusing on using these items for more hands-on activities like coding,” Christine Robinson, HES Librarian and GATE teacher, said. “You see them thinking, collaborating, and problem-solving.”

This is the second year in a row for Robinson and HES to win this grant.

“With learning tools like robots, you don’t always realize you’re learning” Robinson said. “And you get that immediate feedback – ‘No, that isn’t working’ or ‘I need to change that part of my code up’ – which, with these new learning tools, is now really accessible to younger learners.”

Robinson was one of six award winners selected by ESC Region 12.
HISD Honors Teachers of the Year

When asked what a great teacher is, at the top of most lists include a teacher who makes connections with each student and creates lessons that will stick. Sharon Powell does just that. Powell, who has worked at Hillsboro ISD for 24 years – as a 2nd grade and an English Second Language (ESL) teacher – is constantly providing hands-on lessons that allow sensory, auditory, and visual experiences to connect language and culture to her students.

A Tarleton State University graduate, Powell builds meaningful relationships with each of her students and their parents to ensure they have an opportunity to get involved and to build trust.

Not only is Mrs. Powell an ESL teacher, she has also spearheaded the Hillsboro Elementary School Rhythm Rascals and is the UIL coordinator. She has created a legacy for both programs, ensuring the preparedness of her students. Powell is also the Eagle’s Nest teacher, a before school reading support program for 2nd grade ESL students.

Powell is an advocate and supporter of Hillsboro schools; she graduated from Hillsboro High School (HHS), both her children and her oldest grandchild graduated from HHS, and she currently has four grandchildren attending school here.

**Molly Hale**

Molly Hale is known at Hillsboro High School (HHS) for being a role model to both colleagues and students. She brings ideas and thoughts for the good of all departments and students. She believes in challenging students and personally assists each one in being successful in her classroom. Hale is a leader in the Math Department for two years, mentoring 1st year teachers in their transition into the classroom and assisting experienced teachers who are new to Hillsboro ISD.

“Mrs. Hale doesn’t lower the bar,” Keith Hannah, HHS Principal said. “She encourages students to meet expectations through trial and error, practice, hard work, and determination.” She offers both high- and low-achieving students tutorials so each student can meet their own level of expectations. Hale is known for creating connections with her students, and often has former students stopping by to visit. She has been recognized by senior students at the Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation’s Eagle Legacy Banquet for her efforts as a challenger.

**Keith Hannah**

“Mrs. Hale doesn’t lower the bar,” Keith Hannah, HHS Principal said. “She encourages students to meet expectations through trial and error, practice, hard work, and determination.” She offers both high- and low-achieving students tutorials so each student can meet their own level of expectations. Hale is known for creating connections with her students, and often has former students stopping by to visit. She has been recognized by senior students at the Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation’s Eagle Legacy Banquet for her efforts as a challenger.

**Shawn Powell**

A Dallas Baptist University graduate, Hale has spent five years in the classroom, all of which have been at Hillsboro ISD. Mrs. Powell is also the Eagle’s Nest teacher, a before school reading support program for 2nd grade ESL students.

Powell is an advocate and supporter of Hillsboro schools; she graduated from Hillsboro High School (HHS), both her children and her oldest grandchild graduated from HHS, and she currently has four grandchildren attending school here.

HISD Wins $50,000 Technology Grant

Hillsboro ISD was awarded $50,000 through the Texas Education Agency’s (TEA) Technology Lending Program. The funds will be used for the Instructional Material Access for Gains in Education (IMAGINE) program at Hillsboro Junior High School.

According to TEA, Technology Lending grants allow schools to purchase technology devices that are loaned to students who may not have access to a device or Internet access at home for access to digital instructional materials off campus.

The program will provide Chromebooks for lending to next year’s 8th grade students, as well as Internet access through MiFi check-out for those who do not have Internet at home.

“This grant is going to allow the students to bring the world right here to a classroom in Hillsboro,” Cathryn Patterson, Hillsboro Junior High School Principal, said. “Imagine the possibilities they’re going to have by being able to explore, research, and learn with just the push of a button.”

**SkillsUSA Team Nails It at State**

Hillsboro High School’s (HHS) SkillsUSA team brought home ribbons galore from both district and state competitions that were held this spring. The team competes against the biggest schools in Texas.

Taking 29 projects to district, 26 projects were given blue superior ribbons and three received red excellent ribbons. Senior Jocian Librado and junior Jorge Lince received “Best in Show” with their chest of drawers. Junior Monserrat Serrano and Librado also competed in the Cabinetry competition – a seven- to eight-hour build time, starting from blueprints and ending with a complete piece of furniture – where they won 1st and 2nd, respectively.

At the state competition in Corpus Christi, HHS was definitely represented. The team took 26 projects for judging and brought home 21 blue ribbons, four red ribbons, one white very good ribbon. They also brought home two multiple superior plaques for their division. Serrano won 5th place in the Cabinetry competition.

Congratulations on all of your hard work, SkillsUSA!

SkillsUSA Team Nails It at State

**Hillsboro ISD** was notified that it had won a Technology Grant of $50,000. The grant will be used to provide Chromebooks for students and to provide Internet access through MiFi check-out.

The grant is intended to help students who do not have Internet access at home. "This grant is going to allow the students to bring the world right here to a classroom in Hillsboro," said Cathryn Patterson, Hillsboro Junior High School Principal. "Imagine the possibilities they're going to have by being able to explore, research, and learn with just the push of a button."
Volleyball
Co- Defensive Player of the Year - Melissa Segura/Hannah Wood
Offensive Player of the Year - Treasure Mozon
Newcomer of the Year - Skylar Cheek
MVP - Karaline Creech
Most Improved - Armonie Haywood
Fighting Eagle - Darra Riggs

Football
Offensive Player of the Year - Courtney Hewitt
Defensive Player of the Year - Kiunte Lucas
Utility Player of the Year - Jacee Miles
Defensive Lineman of the Year - Juan Deluna
MVP - Jamal Long
Most Improved - Isaac Gonzales
Fighting Eagle - Chris Flores

Cheerleading
Most Dedicated - Lyndsey Woody
Outstanding Leadership - Hannah Patton
Best Jump - Treasure Mozon
Spirit Award - Lyndsey Woody
Best Showmanship - Avery Holmes
Best Technique - Tracy White
Thank You Award - Zeir Allen

Boys Track
Outstanding Sprinter - Frederick Ramirez
Outstanding Field Event - Chris Hernandez
Outstanding Distance - Eric Monroy
MVP - Ronald Mitchell
Most Improved - Brandon Montoya
Fighting Eagle - JaDarius Baxter/Neiman Turner

Boys Cross Country
Newcomer of the Year - Ronald Harden
MVR - Karina Hernandez
Most Improved - Jade Bontke
Fighting Eagle - Joe Cruz

Girls Basketball
Offensive Player of the Year - Jade Bontke
Defensive Player of the Year - Toriah Brooks
MVP - Jade Bontke
Most Improved - Hannah Patton
Fighting Eagle - Marisol Espinoza

Boys Basketball
Mr. Hustle - JaDarius Baxter
Co-Offensive Player of the Year - Courtneym Hewitt/D'Iversen Dowell
Defensive Player of the Year - Cameron Flush
MVP - Jamal Long
Most Improved - Jeremy Pena
Fighting Eagle - Eddie Ramos

Tennis
MVP Girl - Veronica Cabrera
Most Improved Girl - Kiil Hughes
Fighting Eagle Girl - Saori Rojas
MVP Boy - Hugo Garcia
Most Improved Boy - Enki Cabrera/Devaldo Hernandez
Fighting Eagle Boy - Odvan Eagle

Baseball
Hitter of the Year - Tyler Hudson/Blake Schroeder
Defensive Player of the Year - Jeremy Pena
Utility Player of the Year - Spenser Garcia
Newcomer of the Year - Spenser Garcia
MVP - Caeden Trenkle
Fighting Eagle - Courtney Hewitt

Booster Club Scholarship Winners
Karaline Creech - Cain Williams

Athletes of the Year
Courtney Hewitt
Jade Bontke
CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2018!

On the evening of June 1, students, families, administrators, teachers and other distinguished guests gathered at Baylor University's Ferrell Center to honor the achievements of the Hillsboro High School Class of 2018. Throughout the evening, honor graduates led the ceremony, and the crowd enjoyed the thoughts shared by valedictorian Brianna Cheek and salutatorian Jade Bontke. Once the graduates were announced by Superintendent Vicki Adams and were presented with their diplomas, they turned their tassels and class rings before doing the traditional cap toss.

My fondest memory is...

- Meeting new people that I would have never met
- Going to Indianapolis for the National FFA convention
- Winning area and bi-district championships
- Cheering on my school at every pep rally and football game
- Playing softball
- Advancing to state for One Act Play
- Giving gifts to people who had lost family members
- Going to Disney World with all of my friends for Spring Break
- Blurred Reality and Prom
- Giving gifts to people who had lost family members

CLASS OF 2018 SURVEY

My next step is...

- 40.4% Community College
- 30.9% Four-year College
- 10.6% Still deciding
- 9.6% Technical College
- 4.3% Still deciding
- 4.3% Military
Top Graduates Honored

BRIANNA CHEEK, VALEDICTORIAN
“Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if only one remembers to turn on the light.” - Albus Dumbledore

Brianne Lee Cheek, Hillsboro High School’s (HHS) valedictorian, is excited to be a part of the determined, kind, and passionate Texas A&M University Aggie Spirit. Having attended Hillsboro schools all of her life, she says she will miss her friends and family when she starts her next adventure.

Biology is among Cheek’s favorite subjects because she loves learning how intricate and complicated everything is and enjoys figuring out how the world works. Because of this love, she will be majoring in genetics in the fall.

Her plans include conducting research on plant genetics to help feed the growing population and advance the science of genetically modified crops. She also hopes to take those goals outside of College Station and travel to help those that are in poverty.

“Our massive world population needs to have a sustainable source of food, and we all need to help end the chronic malnutrition that plagues our world,” Cheek said. “I believe my part lies in science and research.”

When she wasn’t busy studying, Cheek could be found doing one of her many extracurriculars. Between FFA, Junior Sesame Club, and UIL activities, Cheek works hard and embodies the spirit of an Aggie already – “I’ve seen ’em lose and I’ve seen ’em win, but I’ve never seen ’em quit.”

“Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if only one remembers to turn on the light.” - Albus Dumbledore

JADE BONTKE, SALUTATORIAN
“A dream doesn’t become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work.” - Colin Powell

Hillsboro High School’s (HHS) salutatorian is Jade Ryan Bontke. She will be attending The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) and plans to study biology.

After her college career, Bontke hopes to attend medical school and become a surgeon.

When she wasn’t busy studying, Bontke could be found participating in basketball, cross country, or running track. She will be a part of UTA’s track and field team. She also participated in FFA and National Honor Society for three years.

With her love for sports, Bontke traveled to the state competition to compete in track.

“It is a memory that I will cherish forever,” Bontke said. “All of my friends and family were there to support me.”

Her high school awards and honors include Second Team Academic-All State in cross country and track and Academic All-District all four years in basketball. Bontke also received the Leadership Award, Outstanding Student Award, and Athlete of the Year.

Just like the quote by Colin Powell, Bontke played, practiced, and studied hard throughout her time at Hillsboro ISD.
The Hillsboro Junior High School (HJHS) Symphonic Band Makes History

The Hillsboro Junior High School (HJHS) Symphonic Band competed in the UIL Concert and Sightreading competition at Midway Middle School. The band, under the direction of Glenn Doyle, was awarded the 2018 UIL Sweepstakes Award after receiving 1's in both Concert and Sightreading. The last time HJHS was awarded a Class C Sweepstakes Award was in 1988. But this is the first time in school history that Hillsboro's band at the junior high level earned 1's from both panels.

“I knew this was a very important part of our band program and I knew that with the talent, our students had the potential to be successful,” Doyle said. “I am blessed to be able to work with these kids every day.”

Wanting to do a more demanding program, the students also performed at the Peak Festival in the Murchison Center on the University of North Texas campus. They met the challenge and again received 1's from all three judges and won the Outstanding Percussion Award.

Congratulations, HJHS Symphonic Band, on your accomplishments!

Education Foundation Awards Campus and Educator Grants

Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation provided three educator scholarships and one campus grant this year. The educator scholarships go to teachers around the district who are looking to continue their education. The campus grant will go toward a new poster printer at the high school.

“As always, we want to thank our donors because without them, the Education Foundation wouldn’t be able to award any grants,” Deb Hanson, Executive Director of the Education Foundation, said.

Congratulations to Hillsboro High School and the recipients of the educator scholarships: Katie Pierce and Kelsey Butler!

Hillsboro ISD in 2018. Teaching at both junior high and high school levels, he’s taught both college and career prep, agriculture, and worked with life skills students.

He was an advisor to a state and a national FFA officer. Over the years, many of his students won Grand Champion at the Hill County Fair. During his time as Hillsboro FFA Advisor, students earned over $10,000 in scholarships. He served on the Texas Agriculture Teachers Association Board for nine years. Woody now contracts landscape design and works with home remodeling and restoration.

Bill Woody joined Hillsboro High School in 1987. Teaching at both junior high and high school levels, he’s taught both college and career prep, agriculture, and worked with life skills students.

He was an advisor to a state and a national FFA officer. Over the years, many of his students won Grand Champion at the Hill County Fair. During his time as Hillsboro FFA Advisor, students earned over $10,000 in scholarships. He served on the Texas Agriculture Teachers Association Board for nine years. Woody now contracts landscape design and works with home remodeling and restoration.
Go to the Police Academy

I plan on becoming a pediatric nurse

I want to make video games

I want to be a welder and a coach or ag teacher

Own a gym and be a personal trainer

Be a dermatologist

I want to be a musician or a music producer

To be a teacher and inspire students like my teachers inspired me

I want to work in cosmetology

Be a speech pathologist and work in a school district

Open up a mechanic shop

To become a dentist

Have a big family

My goal is to be happy

I plan to get a job

Run my own company

I want to be a plant geneticist and do research on genetically modified crops

Get a job

Live by the beach

I want to open my own firm and travel

I want to be on the board of a nonprofit organization

Dreaming Big!