

the PRIDE

November 2021

Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future

Volume 38, Issue 3

SMS Nationally Recognized Among the BEST in Texas

PRIDE Journalist: Mia Davidson



SISD Board Members and Administration present SMS administration and representatives with banner and plaque at November Board Meeting.

The U.S. News and World Report named Shallowater Middle School among the top 30% of middle schools in the state of Texas.

According to the report, SMS ranked 131 out of 2,690 Texas Schools. However, be-

ing recognized in the top 30% is somewhat misleading after conducting further resarch because the comparison includes charter, private, and public schools.

Although ranked among the top 30% according to U.S.

News and World Report, SMS is actually ranked in the top 4% to be more precise. In addition, when compared among public schools only, SMS ranks 87, putting SMS among the top 3%.

SMS received the

honored privilege to display the U.S. News badge and banner which Principal Kacie Waller attributes to the efforts the staff, and their commitment to student success.

“Our teachers are constantly monitoring

student performance and making adjustments where necessary. They are also masters of building relationships with our students, which makes all the difference in the world,” said Waller.

Congratulations to

the Shallowater Middle School staff, students, and administration for their outstanding recognition by the state of Texas, and, most importantly, for building an environment leading to the success of its students everyday.



MESSAGE FROM THE *Superintendent*

A topic that is always pertinent and often frustrating in the public school world is school finance and how it is working in our local school district. I want to keep you updated on the state of our finances in Shallowater and how we are working hard throughout the year to get the biggest bang for our buck.

Last school year as we returned to school from pandemic quarantine, the state of the district was in transition and the financial picture looked a bit grim. It was hard to predict how funding would be affected by school attendance, which is a primary driver for the funds we receive. We started the year with uncertainty and a budget that needed to make up some ground.

So, with our board and administrative team, we decided to roll up our sleeves and do everything possible to tackle the financial challenges head-on. You may remember, we were able to refund our bonds, resulting in almost a \$4 million savings to the district. Next, we tightened our belts a bit and cut expenditures and redistributed some of our personnel duties as some staff members resigned. We sought grant opportunities and applied for all relief funds available to support our school district. We also worked with city officials and our county commissioner in requesting their support in available funds for our district. In addition, we partnered with our Shallowater Education Foundation and Region 17 Service Center leadership who supported us in seeking extra funding.

What was the result of all this work? Well, I am happy to share! Last year through all funding sources, we were able to bring in over \$600,000 additional funds beyond our regular state and tax-funded budget. We also came in almost \$200,000 under budget. With combined extra funds and savings, we have done or are in process of doing the following things:

- Completing a technology 1:1 initiative to provide personal devices for our students' use
- Upgrading networking and wireless connections
- Added a robust online education platform and online classroom management system to support regular classroom instruction
- Upgraded our white fleet of vehicles to safer and more reliable transportation for our students and staff.
- Replacing up to 50 aging or disabled air conditioning units
- Replaced an antiquated phone system with an efficient one that allows each teacher to have a phone in the classroom
- Replaced degraded flooring on 3 campuses and at the central office
- (More may come!)

After taking care of these needs, we finished the year under budget and were able to roll a surplus amount of \$400,000 into the district fund balance (our savings account). This moved our fund balance into the state-recommended level to be financially secure. We also were able to give a 3% raise to our employees and a well-deserved beginning of the year bonus! Good news!

And we are not stopping there. So far this year we have been approved for \$260,000 in state grants for reading materials and college readiness strategies, and to support some employees in gaining certification or credentials to better serve our kids! We are working with our insurance adjuster to repair aging, damaged, and leaking roofs. Shallowater Education Foundation just awarded \$108,000 in grants to our teachers and staff! We will continue to turn over every stone to find ways to be sure we have the highest quality education in the South Plains. Thanks to our School Board for their leadership and vision to keep us moving forward! If you see them or one of our amazing teachers, employees, or administrators, pat them on the back for a job well done as we strive to be In a Class of Our Own!

the PRIDE

The Pride is a publication of Shallowater Independent School District and is distributed monthly during the school year.

Newspapers are mailed free of charge to all Shallowater bulk mail addresses.

Subscriptions are available for out of district residents at \$25 annually.

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Additional copies of the PRIDE are available at each SISD school campus, Peoples Bank, Sycamore Family Medicine, First State Bank, and City Hall.

Readers can express their views to articles in this newspaper by writing to:

The PRIDE, Letters to the Editor
1100 Ave. K, Shallowater, TX, 79363

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Dr. Anita Hebert, Superintendent of SISD, Publisher

Printed by Community Printers of Shamrock, TX

**For advertising rates, contact the
Managing Editor at:
806-832-4531 ext. 2280
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Best Wishes this Christmas Season!

*Please join us for Open House at First State Bank
(Shallowater & Amherst Locations)*

*Wednesday, December 8, 2021
9:00am - 2:00pm*



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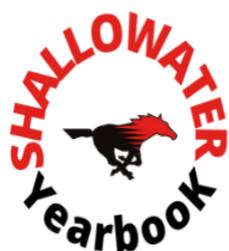


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Shallowater ISD Seeks Nominations



Shallowater ISD is seeking students in our district who learn faster, sooner and with better understanding than other students their age.

Nominations for the gifted services are being accepted from December 6 through December 17, 2021. Forms must be completed on each student nominated and can be obtained from each campus office.

This program is designed to serve the students who require more challenging learning experiences and can tackle more difficult task. Please be aware of the difference between a bright child and a gifted learner.

Bright Child

Knows the answers.
Is interested and attentive.
Has good ideas.
Works hard.
Understand ideas.
Grasp the meaning.
Absorbs information.

Gifted Learner

Ask the questions.
Is highly curious and involved.
Has wild, silly ideas.
Plays around, but test well.
Constructs abstractions.
Draws inferences.
Manipulates information.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's school counselor or assistant principal:

Phone number 832-4531

Kamber Smith, High School, ext. 6014

Trenci Cambron, Middle School, ext. 5007

Julio Hernandez, Intermediate Assistant Principal, ext. 4002

Crystal Villarreal, Elementary School, ext. 3006

2nd Grade Participates in United We Read

PRIDE Journalist: Tristan Castorena

On Thursday, September 20th, more than 400 volunteers showed up in every 2nd grade classroom at Shallowater ISD and many other school districts in the area to participate in United We Read.

Around 3,600 students got to take part in this amazing event. The volunteers read "Ish", by Peter Reynolds. Every 2nd grade classroom across the area read this book and participated in an activity at the exact same time.

Intermediate student, Sebastian Marquez, stated, "I liked the book because the boy wasn't good at drawing and I'm not good at drawing. Then we got to draw and I liked the squiggles that I drew."

Second grade teacher, Lisa Scott, expressed how much she appreciates the United We Read campaign. "We, as teachers, love for others to come read stories to our students. People may not think that reading aloud to chil-

dren is important, but it is crucial. When an adult is reading to them, they are modeling intonation and cadence in literature, and it will help increase their fluency."

As part of the campaign, the students get to take a copy of the book home, putting another book in the hands of our students. We are so thankful for the volunteers that came and that our 2nd graders had the chance to be a part of such an impactful event!

Kendrick Brothers Win Big in Albuquerque

PRIDE Journalist: Mikayla Shires

AJ Kendrick (Sr.) and David Kendrick (Jr.) were among five students in the nation to attend and compete in the American Quarter Horse Youth Association (AQHYA) National Youth Racing Experience in October.

The two brothers traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico to compete in the AQHYA competition, placing in the two top positions. David placed 1st, receiving the top prize of \$3,000, and AJ placed 2nd, receiving \$2,000.

In order to par-

ticipate in the experience, they both had to complete the Racing Skillathon, a contest that tests the knowledge of participants.

During the experience, the five competitors received a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience daily life in a racehorse barn, receiving priceless information from various aspects of the racing industry, including jobs such as the stewards, the announcer, and jockeys. The competitors also had the opportunity to experience the at-

mosphere of a racing committee meeting, the test barn, and the starting gate.

"I learned so much valuable information at the event, and I am honored and very grateful for the opportunity presented to me by the AQHYA," said David Kendrick regarding his personal experience at the event.

We are beyond proud to have these two outstanding students representing Shallowater at the national level, and we can't wait to see what their futures hold.



Photo Credit: American Quarter Horse Youth Association



EST. 1909

SHALLOWATER ISD

In a class of our own.

High 5's With Heroes Builds Important Bridges

PRIDE Journalist: Caitlyn Long

Shallowater Intermediate School hosted the Third Annual High 5's With Heroes Event on October 8.

High 5's With Heroes is an event that allows kids to meet first responders from our community to better build trusting relationships, greeting Shallowater Intermediate students as they walk into the building.

"The students

were really excited to see all the men and women in uniform. It brought big smiles and I loved giving High 5's," said SISD Police Officer, Tracy Hix.

Intermediate PE Coach, Scott Frederick, and Communities in Schools organized the event. "I think it is important to get to see First Responders in a neutral environment, so, on the day they may

need them, they are more comfortable," said Frederick.

The students enjoyed seeing the First Responders, and there were a lot of smiles as the students walked past Shallowater's heroes.

We would like to thank all of our First Responders; Shallowater appreciates each of you, your service, and your sacrifice!



* * * *Thank you,* * * *
First Responders!

Shallowater Lions Club "We Serve"

If you have been looking for a place to serve in our community, we would love to have you join us at a meeting.

Second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center &
4th Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. (meal) at the Community Center.

We are looking for new members to help serve our community.

Feel free to join us at a meeting.



Shallowater Lions Club is proudly represented by Queens, Brandi Estrada and Gracie Potter and Princesses, Leah Shankles and Taigan Talley

Visit our web page:
<http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/shallowater/index.php>
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Mustang Football Completes an Unforgettable Season

PRIDE Journalist: Dalton Baldrige

Over the last several weeks, the Mustangs demonstrated grit, determination, and superior talent in an outstanding season run. They finished district play as undefeated district champs before heading into the playoffs.

To end district play, Shallowater faced the Slaton Tigers. With outstanding offense and even better defense, the Mustangs pulled away quickly and won 42-0. This made them undefeated against all district opponents, which gave them confidence

going into their first playoff game against Dalhart. To start the game, the Mustang defense forced Dalhart to punt. They then took advantage of that with a Keegan Campbell rushing touchdown. Dalhart responded with a touchdown of their own, but Campbell instantly responded with a 70-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to put Shallowater ahead 14-7. Another Campbell touchdown and a Garret Forester passing touchdown gave Shallowater all the momentum they

needed, which led them to win the Bi-District Championship 56-18.

The following week, Shallowater faced Early in what was forecasted to be a close contest. However, the Mustangs pulled away right from the start, and they were up by an impressive 23-0 at half-time. The same theme continued throughout the remainder of the game, which resulted in a 43-14 victory in the Area Championship.

The next week would prove to be the most challenging,

as Shallowater faced Whitesboro in the Regional Championship. The Mustangs started off strong with a touchdown pass to Brett Hall. Both defenses held strong for the next set of drives. Whitesboro then scored through the air as well and scored the two point conversion to take a one point lead. The next score also came from Whitesboro with a rushing touchdown. Shallowater managed to drive down to the goal line, but they had to settle for a field goal. Whitesboro managed to

score one more time to make it 21-10 going into the half. Coming out of the half, after stops by both teams Shallowater scored and got the two point conversion to make it a three point game. Whitesboro then scored two unanswered touchdowns which was only responded with one Shallowater touchdown. This was the last time the Mustangs scored which left Whitesboro to win 50-25, unfortunately drawing the Mustangs' season to an end. Senior, Major Mc-

Cully, reflected on the 2021 season stating, "This season was a blessing to be a part of and is one I will never forget. It has given me important lessons that I will use throughout my life and a brotherhood that will last forever."

We are all so proud of the Mustangs and their coaching staff on such a successful season. The excitement and pride the Mustangs brought to Friday Night Lights is undeniable, and we are already looking forward to next season!



Fillie Volleyball Defies All Odds to Finish Season Strong

PRIDE Journalists: Samantha Thomas and Dorian Davis

Advancing in the post season to the Regional Quarterfinal playoffs truly proves the Fillies commitment and hard work.

The Fillies' hard work truly shined in their victory against River Road in three straight games, 25-14, 25-19, 25-13.

The individual stats are as impressive as their team record. Mia Goicoechea led the

team with 7 aces, Presley Thomas (3), Avery Terrell (3), Tatum McKinney (2), and Shelby Thomas (1).

The team's kills at the net is led by Shelby Roberts with 10, followed by Mia Goicoechea (7), Kynlee Shields (6), and Saylor Williams (5).

The Fillies proved their ability to work as a team through their impressive as-

sists led by Presley Thomas with 12, Tatum McKinney (7), and Avery Terrell (6).

In addition, the Fillies were not afraid to throw themselves into the action with Hanna McCravey leading with 14 digs, Chloe McKinney (11), Mia Goicochea (11), Presley Thomas (5), and Mia St.Clair (4).

The Fillies continued their

strength at the net with Shelby Roberts leading with 3 blocks, followed by Kynlee Shields (2), Mia Goicochea (1), and Mia St.Clair (1).

Throughout the 2021 season, this team has shined bright and made their mark on and off the volleyball court.

It's true what people say, "that all good things come to an end."

The Fillies closed their season in the Regional Quarter Final Championship in a hard-fought battle against the outstanding Bushland Lady Falcons.

Multiple Fillies were recognized for their outstanding season play with post-season honors.

Mia Goicochea received District Co-MVP, Kynlee Shields

District Co-Newcomer of the Year, Hanna McCravey Defensive Player of the Year and Shelby Roberts Outstanding Hitter.

Chloe McKinney and Presley Thomas received All District. Maci Moravcik and Saylor Williams received All-District Honorable Mention.

Congrats to the Fillies on an incredible season.



Congratulations

SHALLOWATER FILLIES

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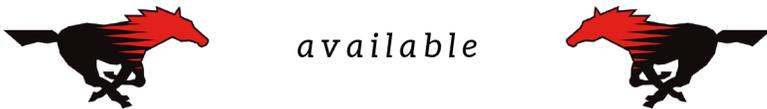
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Merry Christmas from our team!

Eleven-time Lubbock Parade of Homes award winners

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WE KEEP YOU SQUARED AWAY

SHS Offers New Opportunities for Health Science Students

PRIDE Journalist: Grace Carreon

Shallowater High School Health Science students are being offered amazing opportunities this year with Texas Tech, UMC, and Dr. Brian Carreon. SHS has partnered with UMC and Dr. Carreon to offer a Certified Medical Assistant program for those who wish to follow the health care pathway. The CMA program is a great opportunity to introduce students to the healthcare field and even allow

them to find a job opportunity. There will be a total of 25-30 hours of clinical experience required during this process. SHS Health Science teacher, Katie Hinsley stated, "My hope for these partnerships is to be able to serve the healthcare community needs by producing outstanding CMAs ready to enter the workforce and continue representing SISD as a class of our own." Four SHS students

have also been accepted to Texas Tech University's Rural Student Health Sciences Mentorship Program. Brooklin Albracht, Blaze Gray, McKinley Lamberson, and Dylan Gossett are the students who will have the opportunity to participate in the mentorship program by being partnered with a medical student at Texas Tech through February this year. SHS Senior, McKinley Lamberson stated, "I feel

very honored to be a part of this program because these very busy medical school students take time out of their day to help us learn how to be successful in our future educa-

tion and careers." Mrs. Hinsley expressed, "These programs really help prepare our students who are seriously interested in a healthcare career. It allows them to explore the

realistic rewards and challenges of the healthcare field." We are so grateful that our students are being offered this opportunity and can't wait to see the reward that comes from it.



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SPOTLIGHTS



Shallowater ISD Teacher Spotlight

PRIDE Journalist: Erin Klein



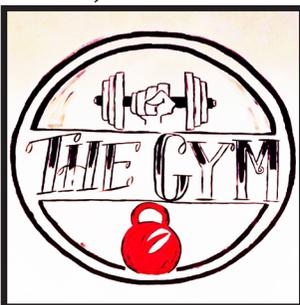
This issue's Teacher Spotlight goes to Joni Kitchens, who serves as the Student Success Advocate at Shallowater Intermediate School. Mrs. Kitchens has been working in Shallowater ISD since 1979 and taught for 38 years

before retiring and then becoming Intermediate's Student Success Advocate. She explains her job at the school as follows: "I come first thing in the morning when they're at breakfast, and if any of them need things from me—water bottles, if they need their hair fixed, or need help with homework—I bring them into my room and I help them out." She further sums it up, "People call me the grandma of the school because I take care of all the

kids, and I love it." Kitchens says that she is constantly grateful for the support of the Shallowater community, both in and out of the school district. "What I love is that everyone looks out for each other," she expressed. "It's very meaningful to me to see that when someone is in need, the community steps up wherever needed." Shallowater ISD is very grateful for Mrs. Kitchens and all that she does for the students and community of Shallowater!

Community Member Spotlight

PRIDE Journalist: Madisen King



November's Community Member Spotlight is Amy Hulse and the Hulse family who have taken a role in helping bring life back to Shallowater's downtown area.

Amy Hulse and Assistant SHS Principal

Kris Hulse have three kids, Carson, SHS 2021 graduate, Hannah, a freshman at SHS, and Brennan, a student at our Elementary school. Amy Hulse, who owns and operates The Gym downtown, has been in the fitness industry for 27 years. She began taking classes in college and realized she loved what she was doing. So, Hulse decided to start teaching fitness classes herself.

The Gym offers various exercise classes to suit anyone. Classes include tires, weight sleds, kickboxing bags, cardio, yoga, and so much more. Anyone ages 14 and up can participate in her exercise programs to become healthy and fit. The Hulses have been avid supporters of Shallowater for years, and we're grateful to have them as a part of our community!

Shallowater Business Spotlight

PRIDE Journalist: Kyndal Clayton



The business spotlight of this month is Lysha's Handcrafted Food, a small restaurant that serves grilled grub, sweet treats, snack bags, coffee, and much more. All of Lysha's food is hand-made and prepared for serving the customers of Shallowater. With their specialty burgers, they bring much joy as one of Shallowater's family-run restaurants. Lysha's Handcrafted Food, owned by Lysha Alvarado, grew up in Shallowater with her fam-

ily, her kids now attending SISD. Lysha always wanted a family-owned restaurant in Shallowater, and has seen and even worked in many successful restaurants that have thrived in Shallowater. Lysha states, "I know the history of restaurant business going on here, and I'm so glad I actually get to be a part of it now because it is a dream of mine." The building that Lysha's business is run in used to be a service and a gas station of Shallowater, and has

become a very historic staple to Shallowater's history in businesses. "This little place means a lot, two people have the same vision, and they have their family working in it, and it's the same with me." She says.

Lysha's Handcrafted Food is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 am-2:00 pm, Thursday through Friday from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm, and on Saturday from 7:00 am-11:00 am. She loves meeting new people and chatting with the regulars that stop by. As one of Shallowater's only current restaurants, Lysha would love all the support she can get, so we recommend stopping by and ordering some of her delicious meals!

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Intermediate & 5th Grade Win FIRST at UIL Contest

2nd Grade Oral Reading

Nash Stanton - 2nd Place
Ray Dudley - 5th Place
Marnee Jackson - 6th Place

3rd Grade Oral Reading

Sutton Ledbetter - 1st Place
Brenley Kute - 2nd Place
Chandler Bernal - 3rd Place

3rd Grade Storytelling

Trayson Glasscock - 1st Place
Kenley Hester - 2nd Place
Hadley Barrett - 4th Place

5th Grade Oral Reading

John Kade Hunter - 2nd Place
Mason Freitag - 4th Place
Gracie Batista - 6th Place

2nd Grade Storytelling

Blake Ketchersid - 1st Place
Cannon Jones - 2nd Place
Rystyn Boatright - 3rd Place

3rd Grade Music Memory

Jeremiah Gray - 1st Place
Kaeson Bonds - 2nd Place
Paisley Roberts - 4th Place
1st Place Team

2nd & 3rd Chess Puzzles

Rustyn Boatright - 2nd Place
Kali Herrin - 3rd Place
Braden Stout - 4th Place
1st Place Team

5th Grade Music Memory

Bentley Van Buren - 1st Place
Phoenix Hensley - 2nd Place
Jaxon Cole - 3rd Place
1st Place Team

2nd Grade Creative Writing

Ray Dudley - 1st Place
Blake Ketchersid - 1st Place
Nash Stanton - 2nd Place

3rd Grade Ready Writing

Brinkli Hart - 1st Place
Levi Warden - 5th Place

4th Grade Oral Reading

Bayler Jeter - 1st Place
Brynn Bading - 4th Place
Callie Beach - 5th Place

5th Grade Ready Writing

Holly Rawls - 3rd Place
Henley Hoelscher - 6th Place

2nd Grade Spelling

Cannon Jones - 1st Place
Sebastian Marquez - 3rd Place
Parker Henry - 4th Place

3rd Grade Spelling

Kalen Logan - 2nd Place
Kaesen Bonds - 4th Place
Jeremiah Gray - 6th Place

4th Grade Music Memory

Evan Hansard - 4th Place
JohnPaul DeHoyos - 5th Place
Mia Sharp - 6th Place
2nd Place Team

5th Grade Spelling

Ysenia Reyes - 1st Place
Hannah Hamilton - 2nd Place
Kinley Johnson - 6th Place

5th Grade Art

Raider Hix - 1st Place
Isaac Vasquez - 2nd Place
Brogan Potter - 4th Place
1st Place Team

4th Grade Ready Writing

Melby Trotter - 2nd Place
Hope Waltisperger - 3rd Place
Tatum Carter - 4th Place

5th Grade Number Sense

Henley Hoelscher - 1st Place
Camden Laycock - 2nd Place
1st Place Team

4th Grade Spelling

Luke King - 3rd Place
Micah Cole - 6th Place

4th Grade Art

Colton King - 1st Place
Kenslie Laverty - 4th Place
Kinlee Vandevender - 5th Place
1st Place Team

5th Grade Dictionary

Kyra Clanahan - 4th Place

5th Grade

Maps, Graphs, Charts

Charlotte St. Jean - 3rd Place
Karson Motheral - 4th Place
Kendall Arney - 5th Place

4th Grade Number Sense

Daniel Gutschke - 1st Place
Landri Ferguson - 2nd Place
Annabella Rodriguez - 4th Place
1st Place Team

5th Grade Listening Skills

Brynlee Wells - 1st Place
Reese Conner - 3rd Place
Ava Woods - 4th Place

4th & 5th Chess Puzzles

Kate Jack - 1st Place
Christopher Starcher - 2nd Place
Rhett Dudley - 4th Place
1st Place Team

5th Grade Social Studies

Cooper Cole - 1st Place
Witten Kincaid - 2nd Place
Xavier Vasquez - 3rd Place



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Keep your eye out for Middle School Academic UIL results in the next issue of The Pride!!