

# BUHSD 201

INSPIRE MINDS TO CHANGE THE WORLD... EVERYONE, EVERYDAY

Buckeye Union High School District

Serving the Southwest Valley Since 1921

## NEWSLETTER

January 2023 / Vol. 015



### A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT, DR. STEVE BEBEE



Dear BUHSD Parents, Community, and Staff,

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and welcome you back to the spring semester of the 2022-23 school year. With the new year also comes change in our state and local governments. One of the hot topics for our newly elected Governor is the Aggregate Expenditure Limit (AEL) for public schools. The AEL is a Constitutional Amendment passed by the Arizona voters back in 1980. It created a spending limit for public school districts based on the total expenditures of all districts. This total expenditure figure is adjusted annually for cost-of-living increases and student population growth. However, the annual adjustments do not cover some of the voter approved funds for schools or increased funding allocated for special needs students. While funds have been allocated to public districts by the State based on approved and legal funding formulas, the AEL has not kept up with public school spending growth. If the Arizona Legislature does not take action to authorize public school districts to exceed the AEL, then districts, including Buckeye Union High School District, will be forced to reduce their budgets. The budget reduction statewide for all public school districts is \$1.15 billion and would be over \$7 million to Buckeye Union High School District. The Arizona Legislature has authorized public school districts to exceed the AEL in past years but has not done so for this school year. The AEL does not apply to charter schools, and by authorizing public school districts to exceed the AEL, there would be no property tax increases. Schools have approved their budgets within the parameter of the state funding formulas, and the money has already been dedicated to the full expenditure budget. The State Legislature has until March 1st to "waive" the AEL for public school districts or the catastrophic budget cuts will be implemented. What is even harder to swallow is that should the legislature vote not to waive the AEL for this school year, that money would sit in limbo. The money would not be swept and cannot be used for anything else. It would just simply sit unused while school districts would be forced to take drastic measures which could include closing schools before the school year is over.

We sincerely appreciate all the help and support in getting our current override passed and would again appreciate your support in contacting our local legislators in asking them to waive the AEL for the 2022-23 school year and allow school districts to operate and finish the school year with the money that was already approved and allocated for them.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Steve Bebee  
Superintendent



## MOST INNOVATIVE FAFSA PLAYER AWARD



Congratulations to the Gear Up Coaches at Youngker High School. We wish to acknowledge Denise El Habach and Christina Taylor as well as the entire Counseling staff led by Celeste Taylor. They have been selected by the Arizona FAFSA Challenge program and Ask Benji as the December 2022 Most Innovative FAFSA Player.

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It helps students pay for their postsecondary schooling, either through scholarships or through the opportunities for parents or students to qualify for Federal Loans.

This award is a state recognition for going above and beyond to increase Youngker's FAFSA completion rate and to ensure more Seniors are equipped to pursue postsecondary education. This includes Colleges, Universities and Community College, as well as accredited Trade and Vocational schools.

This award recognizes that Youngker High School is ahead of all surrounding schools in Senior students who complete their FAFSA. The FAFSA Challenge program and Ask Benji program will be offering a \$500 Scholarship that is only available to the Senior Class at Youngker.

The Gear Up Coaches will be sharing their best practices and any tips they have for increasing their FAFSA numbers. This information will be posted on the FAFSA Challenge website as well as being posted to the Arizona Board of Regents website. The FAFSA opens on October 1 every year, and the months leading up to October 1 is focused on getting as many students as possible to be ready to complete the FAFSA, as well as getting the students to complete as many applications as they can so that the Seniors have as many options as possible for their postsecondary life.

We are proud of all the Gear Up Coaches and Counseling departments throughout the district in their efforts to increase their FAFSA numbers. We are excited to share that all sites have raised their FAFSA numbers from this time last year.



# Student & Staff News

## Varsity Sports

The Buckeye Union Hawks Varsity Men's basketball team hosted cross town rivalry Youngker Roughriders.



It was a cross town Varsity Soccer match as the Lady Wolves hosted the Lady Hawks at Estrella Foothills.



## TSW MOCK INTERVIEWS

A big thank you to the career professionals that conducted "mock" interviews for the TSW (School to Work) program as part of their Semester 1 finals! This experience helps prepare these students for the expectations in the work world. Representatives from PNC Bank, Goodwill Career Services, City of Buckeye (various departments), Rosedin Electric, BUHSD District Administration and Business Office staff were on hand to interview students.





**Would you know what to do for your pet in an emergency?**

is partnering with  
**The Frontline Coalition**  
<https://fb.me/e/29YWHu3Rc>

to bring you a **CPR / First Aid Class**  
Join us on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023  
from 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

at Youngker High School's Media Center

As our "thank you" for attending, each paying participant will receive a door prize ticket. Drawings to be held upon completion of class.

A prize goes to the first registered attendee.

Snacks provided.

<https://thefrontlinecoalition.com/product/february-25th-2023-pet-cpr-first-aid-6-5-hrs/>

## Community Connections with Superintendent, Dr. Bebee

Dr. Bebee attended the City of Goodyear Induction of Council.

Mayor Joe Pizzillo was appointed to serve as Goodyear's Mayor in December 2021 to complete the term of the late Mayor Georgia Lord. He's been on the Goodyear City Council since 2009 and was elected to serve as mayor in 2022.

Thank you Mayor Pizzillo and the Goodyear City Council for all you do for BUHSD.

*If you have a local business you would like for us to tour or you would like to set-up a tour of one of our campuses, please reach out to [marylou.martinez@buhds.org](mailto:marylou.martinez@buhds.org) for scheduling.*



## MEET OUR GOVERNING BOARD

Our Governing Board welcomed a new member and voted on their alignment for the next year. Here is the new alignment through December of 2023.

- Governing Board President – Mr. Brian Turner
- Governing Board Clerk – Dr. Megan Blackburn
- Governing Board Member – Mr. Jeffery Brady
- Governing Board Member – Mr. Maggie Lara
- Governing Board Member – Mr. Nathan Madden



## MR. NATHAN MADDEN



Meet our newly appointed board member Mr. Nathan Madden. Mr. Madden was born in 1998 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in downtown Phoenix and raised in the Greater Phoenix Area. He is a third generation Arizonan and has been personally in Buckeye for a bit over six years, but his family has had roots in Buckeye since the 1950s.

According to Mr. Madden, we have seen the little town out in the middle of the desert grow into a small city and are excited to see it continue to grow even bigger. He hopes to facilitate good growth of this district alongside the growth of our community and intends to serve the community any way he can.

# Student Recognition

FUTURE READY STUDENT OF THE MONTH



**JASIEL TORRES**  
BUCKEYE UNION



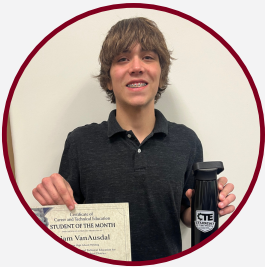
**JAYCEE POPE**  
ESTRELLA FOOTHILLS



**LANALE KIDD**  
YOUNGKER



## CTE STUDENT OF THE MONTH CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION



**LIAM  
VANAUSDAL**

BUCKEYE UNION  
SKILLS USA  
WELDING



**NOEMI  
MONTENEGRO**

ESTRELLA FOOTHILLS  
SKILLS USA  
ENGINEERING



**MARIAH  
CHARLES**

YOUNGKER  
FBLA  
BUSINESS

# Staff Recognition



## JANUARY BUHSD EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

### CLASSIFIED STAFF

**JULIE LEATHERBURY**  
CUSTODIAN

**JOSEPH MAZUR**  
MAINTENANCE TECH

**JIMMIE MIRACLE**  
BUS DRIVER

**GABRIELA SEPULVEDA**  
ESS, INSTRUCTIONAL PARAPRO

**ARYAL CORDOVA**  
EARLY CHILD CARE PROVIDER

### CERTIFIED STAFF

**AMY SPEIGHT**  
TEACHER - INSTRUCTIONAL SPEC.

**LISA DECOTA**  
TEACHER - CTE CULINARY ARTS

**KRISTEN KOHLI**  
TEACHER - INSTRUCTIONAL SPEC.

**CASEY PRITCHARD**  
TEACHER - ENGLISH

**TERESA CABRERA**  
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

**MISTY MOORE**  
TEACHER - CTE CULINARY ARTS

### ADMIN STAFF

**KEVIN GEIGER**  
NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

**Sponsored By**  
Buckeye, AZ

