

**February 2023**



# **YOUNGKER HIGH SCHOOL ROUGHRIDERS NEWSLETTER**

[WWW.YHS.BUHSD.ORG](http://WWW.YHS.BUHSD.ORG)

623-269-1300

3000 S. Apache Rd. Buckeye, AZ 85326

February 2023

# Youngker

# GRADUATION

May 18th 8pm  
Goodyear Ballpark

To purchase your cap and gown please go here:  
<https://www.balfour.com/arizona/buckeye/youngker-high-school>  
Last day to order is March 30th

Cap and gown photos can NOW be ordered from  
[www.portraitorders.com](http://www.portraitorders.com)  
use your student ID to find YOUR picture

More information will come out as we get closer to the date



# UPCOMING TESTING INFORMATION

Testing time is here again. Here are the following dates and grades levels that our students will be taking this year's state mandated tests at Youngker High School.



## JUNIORS

*AzSCI Test*

**March 28th**

7:20am - 10:15am

*ACT Test*

**April 4th**

7:20am - 12:20am

**Tuesday, March 28th 2023** Juniors will take the AzSCI Test from 7:20am-10:15am and regular school will start that day at 10:20am. There will be a double bus run also for Juniors with the 1st run and all other grades later that morning for the start of school later that day.

**Tuesday, April 4th 2023** Juniors will take the ACT Test from 7:20am-12:20pm and will be the only ones on campus that day with buses leaving school at 12:45 to take home the Juniors.



## FRESHMAN

*ASPIRE Test Part 1*

**April 11th**

7:20am - 10:05am

*ASPIRE Test Part 2*

**April 13th**

7:20am - 10:20am

**Tuesday, April 11th 2023** Freshman will take the ASPIRE Test Part 1 from 7:20am-10:05am and regular school will start that day at 10:20am. There will be a double bus run also for Freshman with the 1st run and all other grades later that morning for the start of school later that day.

**Thursday, April 13th 2023** Freshman will take the ASPIRE Test Part 2 from 7:20am-10:20am and regular school will start that day at 10:35am. There will be a double bus run also for Freshman with the 1st run and all other grades later that morning for the start of school later that day.



## SOPHOMORES

*Pre-ACT Test*

**April 18th**

7:20am - 10:25am

**Tuesday, April 18th 2023** Sophomores will take the Pre-ACT from 7:20am-10:25am and regular school will start that day at 10:40am. There will be a double bus run also for Sophomores with the 1st run and all other grades later that morning for the start of school later that day.



# Principal's Message

We are off and running with our second semester of the 2022- 23 school year at YHS. We are very excited about the school year thus far and are pleased with the significant progress and accomplishments we have attained.

Thank you to our students, faculty, staff, and parents for your collective contributions that continue to make Youngker High School a vibrant learning community.

We are committed to creating an environment that is focused on student successes that maintains a steadfast commitment to the generation and manifestation of a "Culture of Excellence" at YHS.

Michael Sivertson, Ed.D

Principal



# *Future Ready Student of the Month*



## **Summer Duenas Parra**

# CTE Student of the Month



## Lesly Aponte Pineda

# Student of the Month



## Alyssa Kizzar

# Student of the Month



## Andrew Morales



# Student of the Month



## Christopher Himes

# Student of the Month



## David Ihimbazwe

# Student of the Month



## Daysia Thongvanh

# Student of the Month



## Emma Bujan



# Student of the Month



## Guage Coker

# Student of the Month



## Issac Majia

# Student of the Month



## Jagger Horne

# Student of the Month



## Kat Belcher

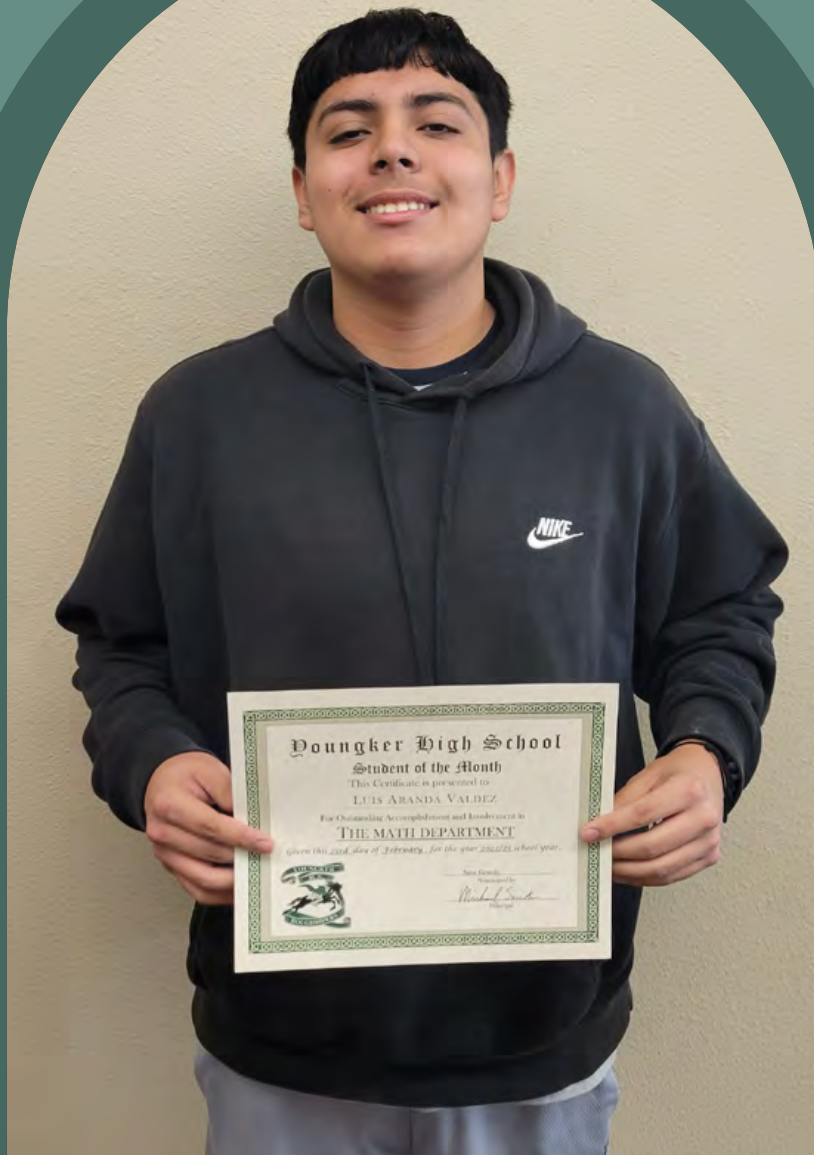


# Student of the Month



## Kyra Kemple

# Student of the Month



## Luis Aranda Valdez

# Student of the Month



## Michala Garcia

# Student of the Month



## Rebekah Hickey



# Student of the Month



## Vanessa Kenyon

# *February*

## *Employee of the Month*



***Congratulations Mrs. Stark!***

# *February*

## *Employee of the Month*



***Congratulations Mia McDermott!***

# *February Employee of the Month*



***Congratulations Ellen Baker!***



# *February Employee of the Month*



***Congratulations Amy Rasmussen!***

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Evan Aguirre signed with Luther College on National Letter of Intent Day. Evan had interest from colleges across the country, in the end despite push by local colleges ACU and Ottawa, Evan stayed with his commitment to Luther College. Evan demonstrated daily an incredible on the field work ethic that will carry on his success into college.

Evan leaves Youngker high school with the following records:

**#1 in receptions: 76**

**#1 in receiving yards: 1,376**

**#1 in touchdown receptions: 13**

**#1 in kickoff return average and yards.**



# Jessica Drunasky

## Teacher Feature

“Do what you enjoy and you’ll never work a day in your life”

Hello Roughriders!

I was born and raised here in the Great State of Arizona. I grew up running around in the white tank mountains with neighborhood kids. I would ride horses thru the land we now call YHS.

I am the oldest of 5 and an auntie to 9 nephews. I have a 3.5 year old named Julia who is in the COOP here at YHS and a 2 year old named Amelia. This is my 14th year teaching at Youngker and after becoming a mother myself, it has changed many things about how I view my faith, my role as a teacher, and overall a human being. A wonderful metamorphosis I call it.

Growing up I always had my plan. I wanted to be an Equine Veterinarian or a Science Teacher which ever path would take me, so I planned for both. I always wanted to go to NAU so I went there. I also met my 2 best friends while attending NAU. I graduated with a Zoology, Pre-Vet Emphasis degree.

While attending NAU I worked closely for 4 years from 1998-2002 with one of the best Equine Veterinarians in the country, the late Dr. Conley Westover. He changed my life in a few ways. I have always had an infinity and soft spot for animals. To the point that I have given CPR to a pale lifeless iguana and saved its life-surprisingly -and helped Dr. Westover do a hip replacement on a stray cat he



accidently ran over in the middle of the night. He promoted my dream of veterinary medicine OR teaching, allowing me to glove up and help him in almost all of his surgeries and field visits. He also gave me honest advice on the quality and type of life of an Equine veterinarian. I learned so much that way.

I later realized that the lifestyle of a Vet was not for me, you work and worry almost 24/7. I decided I wanted a different, more time with family lifestyle, and to be able to help other kids find their place in this world. So, I went after a Master's degree in Secondary Education thru NAU to become a high school Life Science teacher. Life is a series of unpredictable circumstances and a sequence of change, its just how we handle the ride.

I have been teaching at Youngker High School since my first day of teaching in the fall of 2009. I enjoy coming here each morning and



I enjoy the relationships with my students and staff that I have made.

I teach Biology, Anatomy, and Wildlife Management. I absolutely LOVE what I teach and I get a chance to show my students how fascinating living things are made. At one point I was interested in becoming an Administrator, so in 2013 I got my 2nd Master's Degree in Educational Leadership also thru NAU, and passed the Certification for Principalship AEPA shortly after. Thru that process, I realized I still love being a science teacher more than anything else. Maybe be an administrator one day, just not today. That journey was a learning experience for me and taught me better ways to manage, monitor, and adjust my practice in the classroom to improve the experience for my students and myself.

I was the freshman volleyball coach for 7 years and the Head Coach for YHS Track and Field for 8 years before motherhood in May 2019 jumped up on the priority list, as we decided to grow our family. I was honored to be able to coach the amazing athletes that have come thru those programs.

I try hard every day to be the best I can for my students and to model the Youngker Way and our Culture of Excellence for my students. My promise to my students is that I want to be for them what I want my girls' future teachers to be for them. As an educator, I hope to help mold my students into critical thinkers and problem solvers for the good of society and themselves.

I also find happiness when I get to connect with them in a way to

help them maneuver the decision making time of their lives with any experiences and wisdom I can offer.

Lastly, when I am not here at YHS I am soaking up the littleness of my girls. Time is our enemy and I don't want to miss a thing. Every little aspect of what they do I want to witness, you can call me obsessed. I soon will be tugging them around YHS sporting events.

In the event I am not doing that, I am working with my horses. I still train and race barrel horses. I just retired my long time friend (Nikita) and now I am starting my 3 year old filly, Vivian. My goal to is train her well enough to qualify to take her to a few big futurities one of which is in our own Buckeye, AZ, one in Glacier Montana, and Idaho when she turns 5. I would also like to qualify to the Women's Professional Rodeo Association with this same horse. My daughter Julia has also begun to ride and compete on her horse with me.

Additionally, I enjoy doing anything outside like gardening and planting flowers in March and October, running to stay in shape, taking our Ranger side by side out on trails collecting cool rocks and spending fun time with All of my family. Thank you for allowing me and trusting me to educate the students of YHS!

Go Roughriders!

*Jessica  
Drunasky*



# Courtney Kriebel

## Teacher Feature



I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and moved to Arizona when I was about to start 5th grade. I love Arizona weather and never want to live in the cold again. I was raised with four brothers, so life was always an adventure. We loved to go boating, tubing, wakeboarding, camping, quadding, snowboarding... you name it, we did it. My first major passion was gymnastics. I was a competitive gymnast for ten years before switching over to the dance world.

When I began dancing at a studio, I signed up for every style of dance offered. I could not get enough. Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, Contemporary, Hip Hop, and Musical Theater were some of them. I danced every night of the week and decided to join a professional company in seventh grade. We rehearsed on the weekends for our numerous performances throughout the year. When I started high school, I was a varsity cheerleader and ran track in the off-season as a sprinter and hurdler. My junior year of high school, I quit cheer and track to spend even more time at the dance studio.

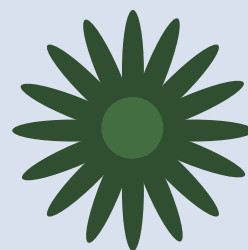
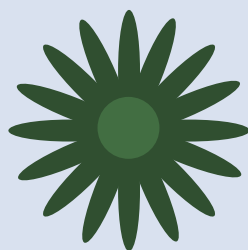
My senior year involved getting a job at Reebok since I was out of school at 10:30 am. I went to work most days by 11 am and finished each day after work at the dance studio 5–9 pm. I was involved in three clubs in high school: FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), National Honor Society, and NHSDA (National Honor Society for Dance Arts). These clubs shaped me as a person and helped me form great friendships that I will never forget.

For college, I went to Anderson University in Indiana to follow in my mother's footsteps. She had always talked about how much she loved it there. I moved across the country without ever seeing the campus until it was move-in day. I majored in Dance Business because I thought I wanted to open my own dance studio. While I was there, I was on the cheer and dance team where we performed at all the football and basketball games. I was so blessed to be able to graduate college in three years with taking the maximum amount of credit hours each semester and some summer classes, so I began looking for jobs right when I turned 21.

After graduating college, I did some dance auditions, but I kept feeling called to work with kids. I started substitute teaching to make some money while I figured out what I truly wanted to do. I subbed for every age group of kids from preschool through high

school to try to narrow it down. While I was volunteering for Younglife, I realized high school was the age group I loved.

I started as a cheer coach at Estrella Foothills High School before getting a dance teacher position at Buckeye Union. After one year there, I was given the opportunity to be the dance teacher and varsity pom coach at Youngker. I have loved my job every day since I started at this amazing school. With starting a family of my own, coaching became too difficult to manage with keeping my own babies a priority so now I focus all my energy on teaching during the day and going home to my family every night. I could not be more grateful to get to do what I love every single day! Go Riders!



## Teacher Feature

# Oseas Castillo



My name is Oseas Castillo. I am the Coding Teacher at Youngker High School.

I grew up in Westchester County, New York, where I worked as a waiter until finishing high school. I moved out on my own and learned how to be responsible and take care of myself, while doing this I had side jobs repairing laptops. Later, I met my wife got married and started our family.

I moved to Arizona in 2013. I have always loved technology which prompted me to further my education to enter the industry. I got hired by Youngker High School in 2014 as a Campus Tech and worked for the IT department for 6 years. During covid in 2020, I got my Arizona CTE Industrial and Emerging Technologies teaching certificate. Soon after, the Coding position opened, and I applied and got hired.

I love Youngker High School; I am motivated by the wonderful students and staff that I am able to work with each year. I look forward to seeing their accomplishments.



## Staff Feature

# Shelly Gadd

Greetings,

My name is Shelly Ann Gadd and I am extremely happy to be a part of the Roughrider Family. I worked in the Workers Comp Insurance Industry for twenty-five years, working from home the past 10 years and decided to make a career change after realizing that I was no longer happy. I have always felt I would fit in working at a school, so I gave it a shot and here I am. The transition has been easy I love the fast-paced environment here at Youngker front office and the people are great too!!

I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 25 years and I am a “Boy Mom”. We raised 2 young men and spent most of our days at the baseball field watching both play Varsity Baseball for the Downey Vikings and volunteering as a Baseball Booster for eight-straight years.

We moved to Arizona after my youngest graduated High School and decided to become a Wildcat and attend the University of Arizona. My oldest son is newly engaged to his high school sweetheart and is a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corp and will be leaving the Corp after 5 years and moving to Arizona this fall. I am extremely excited to have my family all in one general location again.

Since we are relatively new to the area, my Husband and I like to spend our weekends exploring this beautiful state and will often take our dogs Hank and Beavis with us if our destination permits. We also enjoy hosting our family and friends who often come out to visit.

Gooooo Roughriders!!!



# Staff Feature

## LeAnn Baukol



Hello there, I was asked to write a little something about myself and I wasn't sure where to start. My name is LeAnn Baukol-Carteno. I have been married for 32 years to my husband Roberto. He is from Guerrero, Acapulco and I am from Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. We have 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren and 1 dog named Cooper.

Before working here I worked for the Superior Courts of Maricopa County. I worked in the Court Division of Family Courts. It was a great job and I loved it. It was both rewarding and emotional. Because Family Court is such an emotionally charged atmosphere, it's imperative that they move Judges every 3 years due to Family Court's demands on them. They have a saying, Criminal Court is where you see BAD people acting on their BEST behavior, while in Family Court you see GOOD people acting in their WORST behavior. No matter how you look at it, when children are involved, RESPECTABLE behavior is key, but it's rarely used! Ultimately, what brought me to Youngker was no more 3 hour commutes and more time with my family.

Now, as to how I came to Buckeye. My family and I came here 6 years ago from a small town in California called San Diego. I had spent most of my life out there since I was a Military brat, constantly moving around until I joined the US Navy in 1984. When I came up for orders, I just knew I was going to be stationed somewhere tropical, I just didn't know it was going to be back in San Diego lol.

After 6 Elementary schools, 3 Junior High schools and 3 High schools some 12 years later, upon Graduation, I joined the US Navy at the age of 18. I went to Bootcamp in Orlando Florida, went to "A" school there as well and finally got stationed in San Diego.

I remained in San Diego for 32 years. I was there when they filmed TopGun, and yes, I met Val Kilmer, Tom Cruise, Kellie McGillis and the rest of the crew. They shot the Volleyball scene outside of my barracks. I was very blessed in my short career, to have seen and done what most will never do. I was in a training squadron called VAW-110. I was a Plane Captain (don't let the name fool you), I would do daily turn arounds when the

aircraft would land. My job was to make sure the Aircraft was safe for the next Flight. If there was something on the aircraft that was damaged or needed to be repaired, I would write up a work order and give it to Duty Officer and he would give it to the correct department for troubleshooting. I was one of the first group of women in the US Navy that was fortunate to work on Aircraft Carriers before women were allowed to be stationed on them. I have been aboard the USS Kitty Hawk, USS Constellation, USS Carl Vinson, USS Ranger and the USS Enterprise. I have over 68 days Sea time.

After many years of working with the public doing retail, I worked at a Law Firm and working as an Office manager, I went back to College to obtain my degree at the age of 37. I found College to be exciting at that age and realized how smart I was 3.67GPA lol. I made honors and was thrilled with learning at my old age, until the economy took a turn for the worse, so I had to go back to work. I became a Pest Control inspector and enjoyed that until I found out that my daughter was going to have a baby. I left my job to help raise my Grandson until he was two years old.

Things were great for our little family until 10/9/2009 when our world was flipped upside down. I had gone in for my second shoulder surgery and while I was in recovery, I remember the Nurse coming to me and asking if I were all right. I said no and next thing I know I awoke from a coma a few weeks later. I learned to walk, talk, and read again. It's been a long journey, but I have been

so blessed to have such an amazing family to support me through this. It wasn't easy for my kids who at that time were 16 and 12. My Husband is a Long-Haul Driver/Trainer for Swift so it was hard for him to be around all the time since the bills don't pay themselves. My mom came out to help as well as our friends.

Now I am paying back my mom for all those years she helped me. Being the only child, its my turn to take care of her. She lives with us as she is in Hospice care with Pancreatic & Liver Cancer and COPD. I am so lucky to have such a great family support system. I have my daughter's Reyna and Denise, my Grandchildren Riley, Sophia and Ariana and my Husband Roberto.

And this is my story.....

P.S. I also have a wicked sense of humor, I love comedies (I performed stand-up in San Diego to help me get over my fear of public speaking), horror movies and really any movie. My favorite foods are anything if it doesn't stare back at me. My hobbies are shopping on tiktok (now I'm ready to open a small business due to the amount of merchandise I have bought these past few months), crocheting, traveling, and watching my Grandson play sports, my Granddaughter ride horseback and now my littlest Granddaughter in Tumbling (which I am known for doing unintentionally when walking down our stairs) and being with my family near and far. So if you see me at the Guidance Desk, please stop by and say hello!

# Staff Feature

## Evelyn Sandoval



Hello, my name is Evelyn Sandoval. I was born and raised near the beach and believe it or not I dislike the beach. I love the desert. This is one of the reasons why I'm here in Arizona.

I am a mother of 3 kids, two of them are here at Youngker high school, my third and youngest is at Westpark elementary school. I love traveling, especially when we travel to play softball and Baseball out of state. I enjoy late ball games.

I was previously employed at Buckeye Elementary school before coming to Youngker high, although I loved working at the elementary school with the younger students. I've learned I enjoy working with high school students. I am looking forward to watching these young adults grow.



# CTSO ACCOLADES



Career & Technical Student Organizations

Congratulate these students and their achievements in their CTSO Event Competitions!

**GOLD** - 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**SILVER** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

**BRONZE** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

## FBLA - BUSINESS

### Region 5 Conference

Chapter Award - Online Testing Tournament

Chapter Award - Chapter Sign



#### Student

#### Competitive Event

Quintcy Jenkins .....	Advertising Computer Game and Simulation Graphic Design
Lesly Aponte Pineda.....	Business Communications Personal Finance
Evelyn Torres.....	Digital Photography International Business
Ki'Marra Bates.....	Electronic Career Portfolio
Emilio Santos.....	Hospitality Management Political Science Social Media Strategies
Jayde Garrett.....	Introduction to Business Concepts
Lorenzo Stanley.....	Introduction to Business Procedures
Kaitlynn Chaney.....	Introduction to Event Planning
Alicia Mendes.....	Introduction to Event Planning
Mollie Wigman.....	Introduction to Event Planning
Ariel Chavez.....	Job Interview
Alfredo Lopez.....	Journalism
Joshua Bunnell.....	Personal Finance
Valeria Hernandez Jacobo.....	Business Calculations Organizational Leadership
Alfredo Lopez.....	Business Communications
Esteban Santos.....	Business Management
Kayla Maltbie.....	Insurance and Risk Management E-Business
Andrew Morales.....	Introduction to Business Calculations
Kade Tomlinson.....	Introduction to Marketing
Charley Wolfe.....	Supply Chain Management





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**BRONZE** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

## FBLA - IT

### Region 5 Conference

Chapter Award.....Online Testing Tournament

Hannah Zeller.....UX Design

Website Design

Jagger Horne.....Website Design

Computer Problem Solving

Cyber Security

Cale Ogilvie.....Introduction to Information Technology

Thomas Uphold.....Networking Infrastructures

Computer Problem Solving

Tim Wong Perez.....Help Desk

Introduction to Business Procedures

### Online Testing Tournament

Jason Martin.....Computer Applications

Computer Problem Solving

Jagger Horne.....Computer Problem Solving

Tim Wong Perez.....Introduction to Business Procedures

Odomvishna Pich.....Introduction to Information Technology

### Certifications

Thomas H. Uphold...CompTIA IT Fundamentals (ITF+)



## FBLA - GRAPHIC DESIGN

### Region 5 Conference

Emily Candelaria.....Social Media Strategies

Maritza Fierro.....Mobile Application Development

Harsh Kumar.....Introduction to Social Media Strategies

Vincent Sapp.....Introduction to Social Media Strategies

Introduction to FBLA

Mason Worl.....Introduction to FBLA



## FCCLA - CULINARY

### National Leadership Conference

Isaiah Ruiz.....Job Interview





# CTSO ACCOLADES



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**BRONZE** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

## HOSA - SPORTS MED

### Region 2 Conference

Ayda Reyes.....Prepared Speaking  
 Sayra Alvarez.....Health Career Display  
 Elliot Valenzuela.....Health Career Display  
 Jazmine Ramirez.....Sports Medicine Competition



### AzATA Conference

Jazmine Ramirez.....Sports Medicine Competition

### State Online Testing

Mariah Ortegeros.....Behavioral Health  
 Nutrition

Naomi Copeland.....Behavioral Health  
 Pathophysiology

Ayda Reyes.....Cultural Diversities and Disparities in Healthcare  
 Avery Cid.....Cultural Diversities and Disparities in Healthcare  
 Nevaeh Pablo.....Dental Terminology  
 Pathophysiology

Elliott Valenzuela.....Epidemiology  
 Estee Jaime .....Forensic Science  
 Elliot Valenzuela.....Forensic Science  
 Kamrynn Smith.....Medical Spelling  
 Ayda Reyes.....Medical Spelling  
 Abbey Quezada.....Medical Terminology  
 Sports Medicine

Jacquelin Ramos.....Medical Terminology

Sayra Alvarez.....Medical Terminology  
 Sports Medicine

Jaedin Thomas.....Physical Therapy  
 Alyssa Kizzar.....Sports Medicine  
 Jazmine Ramirez.....Sports Medicine  
 Kamrynn Smith.....Sports Medicine



**HOSA Officers** - names from left to right:  
 Estee Jaime, Kamrynn Smith, Abbey Quezada, Jazmine Ramirez,  
 Alyssa Kizzar

# WRESTLING

PLEASE CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING WRESTLERS FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT THE STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

SOPHOMORE **MARCUS BURCA** PLACED 6TH

JUNIOR **QUINTON MCMULLEN** PLACED 3RD

SOPHOMORE **VANESSA AGUIRRE** PLACED 4TH

AND SOPHOMORE **SEVANNA AGUIRRE** WAS THE STATE RUNNER-UP



# TRACK & FIELD

This year's track is attempting to build on the momentum and success from last year.

With over 60 of the hardest working student athletes on campus competing in a variety of events, this team hopes to represent Youngker with pride and character.

Led by a talented group of individuals, the boys & girls Southwest Region Champs look to go back-to-back this year.

Defense of their title begins **FEBRUARY 25TH** at the Richard Thompson South Mountain Classic.

**GO ROUGHRIDERS!**

1 2 3 4 5



# YHS CHEER

Hello RoughRiders!

Your Roughrider cheer team took three teams to Nationals in the Show Cheer, Group Stunt, and Crowdleader categories. We are extremely happy to announce that after years of hard work and perseverance, Youngker advanced to FINALS for the first time in YHS history!



Watch the Show Cheer Nationals Performance

**13th Place**



Watch the Group Stunt Nationals Performance

**5th Place**



Watch the Crowdleader Nationals Performance

**7th Place**

