



Wool, Wins, and Wisdom

By Kalliah Quintana
Staff Writer

This year, three House Schools students represented our community at the National FFA Wool Judging Invitational, and they did an incredible job. The team placed 6th overall at nationals, with strong individual finishes: Cade earned 14th place, Maddie placed 18th, and Elizabeth took 19th.

When asked about pre-competition rituals, Maddie shared, “I always pray before competition, but I’m not sure if it’s a good luck charm. I think it’s just to ease my nerves.”

Her advice for future competitors? “Try to learn how to grade wool because that’s the biggest part of the contest. For the New Mexico state contest, I would tell others to learn how to talk about reasons.”

Reflecting on her experience, Maddie

added, “The Texas wool judging is very different from New Mexico wool judging. At nationals, I learned how to do questions on placing classes. The hardest part is trying to make sure your opinions align with the judges.”

Elizabeth agreed, saying the most challenging part at nationals was that “judges all judge differently.” She shared, “I don’t have a specific good luck charm, but if I had one, it would probably be going over wool cards the night before to set my eyes. I also practice canned reasons at competitions that include reasons.”

Her advice for beginners is simple but powerful: “Don’t expect to be good at it the first time. It takes a lot of practice to realize what you’re looking at, so just stick with it.”

Elizabeth added that her biggest challenge is “remembering all the guidelines, numbers, and terms.”

Both girls agreed that wool judging requires patience, focus, and plenty of practice. Their success shows that hard work truly pays off. No matter the level of competition.



Submitted photo
Maddie Kenyon, Elizabeth Downey, and Cade Lee pose in front of the backdrop.



Fall Festival – p.2
House Schools lit up the night with food, games, and plenty of fall cheer! Students hosted booths, played games, and showed off their creativity through costumes and festive decorations. The journalism class joined in the fun by running a photo booth where families could snap pictures and take home lasting memories.



Voices Of House Schools — p.2
Voices of House Schools gives students the chance to share their thoughts, creativity, and school spirit through writing and storytelling. The publication celebrates student perspectives, achievements, and the events that make House Schools such a close-knit and vibrant community.



Discovery Camp Inspires Learning and Leadership— p.3
House Junior High FFA members attended the District IV Discovery Camp, where they participated in hands-on workshops and leadership activities. One of the sessions was led by House FFA members Maddie Kenyon and Elizabeth Downey, who guided younger students in learning about teamwork and agricultural leadership.



Cowboys Shine in Red Ribbon Week Participation— p.4
House Schools kicked off Red Ribbon Week with a series of fun and spirited theme days promoting drug-free living. From cozy pajama day to team jerseys and creative costumes, students proudly showed their support for making healthy choices and standing strong against drugs.

The Foxes Fight to the Finish

By Elizabeth Downey
Staff Writer

The House/Fort Sumner football and volleyball seasons are drawing to an end. The junior high volleyball team has three games left, while the varsity football team is officially heading into the playoffs.

The Foxes wrapped up their regular season with an impressive 42–12 victory over Escalante. Junior Jalen Shaw said he’s ready to finish the season strong. “I’m excited to try and go win the championship,” Shaw said. He added that he’s focusing on improving his mindset on the field. “I’m working to improve by trying not to get mad when I mess up,” he said. The junior high football

season has already concluded, ending with a win against Escalante and an undefeated 7–0 record. Leo said he was proud of his team’s effort.

“We did great. We were undefeated,” Leo said. He’s looking forward to next season. “I’m excited for the opportunities we get and just to try and get better.”

Sixth grader Annabelle Wooldridge reflected on her volleyball season. “I enjoyed the games, especially when we won,” she said. Annabelle also said that she plans to continue playing volleyball. “I plan to just feel it out and see.”



Submitted photos
TOP: Annabelle Wooldridge plays volleyball in a recent tournament at Texico.
BOTTOM: Jalen Shaw plays football in a recent win against Tatum.



EDITORIAL

House Schools Fall Festival Brings Community Together

By Maddie Kenyon
Editor

House Secondary School students and staff came together for the Annual House Schools Fall Festival, a community tradition filled with games, laughter, and teamwork. This year’s festival was organized by junior class sponsor and math teacher, Jazmin Regalado, who said she was proud of how the event turned out. “I feel really proud of how the Fall Festival turned out. It was such a great way to bring our school and community together,”

Regalado said. “You could really feel the excitement and teamwork from everyone involved, students, staff, and families all made it a special event.” Regalado said she was especially encouraged by the large turnout and participation, noting that it helped the junior class raise funds for prom. “The most successful part was definitely seeing how engaged everyone was. The bingo night was a hit, people were laughing, cheering, and genuinely having a great

time,” she said. She also praised her students for their hard work and leadership. “My students did an amazing job. They took ownership of their responsibilities, stayed organized, and worked well as a team,” she said. “It was really rewarding to watch them develop leadership skills and take pride in seeing their hard work come to life.” Junior Jalen Shaw said he contributed to the event’s success by helping behind the scenes. “I made a ton of calls

and helped set up for bingo,” he said. “I also got to roll the spinny thing and help check cards.” Shaw said he also enjoyed taking part in the festival’s activities. “I really liked hanging out with my friends and playing games. I think the best game was probably trying to throw the football through the tires,” he said. The junior class extended a big thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, and supported the event.



Photos By Maddie Kenyon
LEFT TO RIGHT: Nurse Shelby Tatum’s sons pose for a picture; House Students engage in a heated conversation involving the Fall Festival jail; Alicia Foster puts her head through the bars of the jail. The whole Fall Festival made \$ 5,918.00. The bingo and auction raised \$4,455.00.

MONSTER MIX-UP COMIC

By Cypress Scholtz
Staff Writer



VOICES OF HOUSE SCHOOLS

Which teacher would most likely survive a zombie invasion at school?

What’s one thing a teacher has said that you’ll never forget?

If you could invite anyone famous to visit House Schools, who would it be?

Which teacher or student would make the best rodeo announcer?

Who’s most likely to accidentally start a classroom karaoke moment?

Mr. Widner because have you seen those shop tools
Izzy, 9th

“Not that they have said, but Mr. Cadenhead gives us gifts,”
Carter, 11th

“I would say Mr. Beast, because he might give us money,”
Davin, 3rd

“I think Mr. Hestand because he knows a lot about rodeo.”
Kyle, 9th

“Kenneth because he likes to dance periodically.”
Bentley, 5th

Discovery Camp Inspires Learning and Leadership

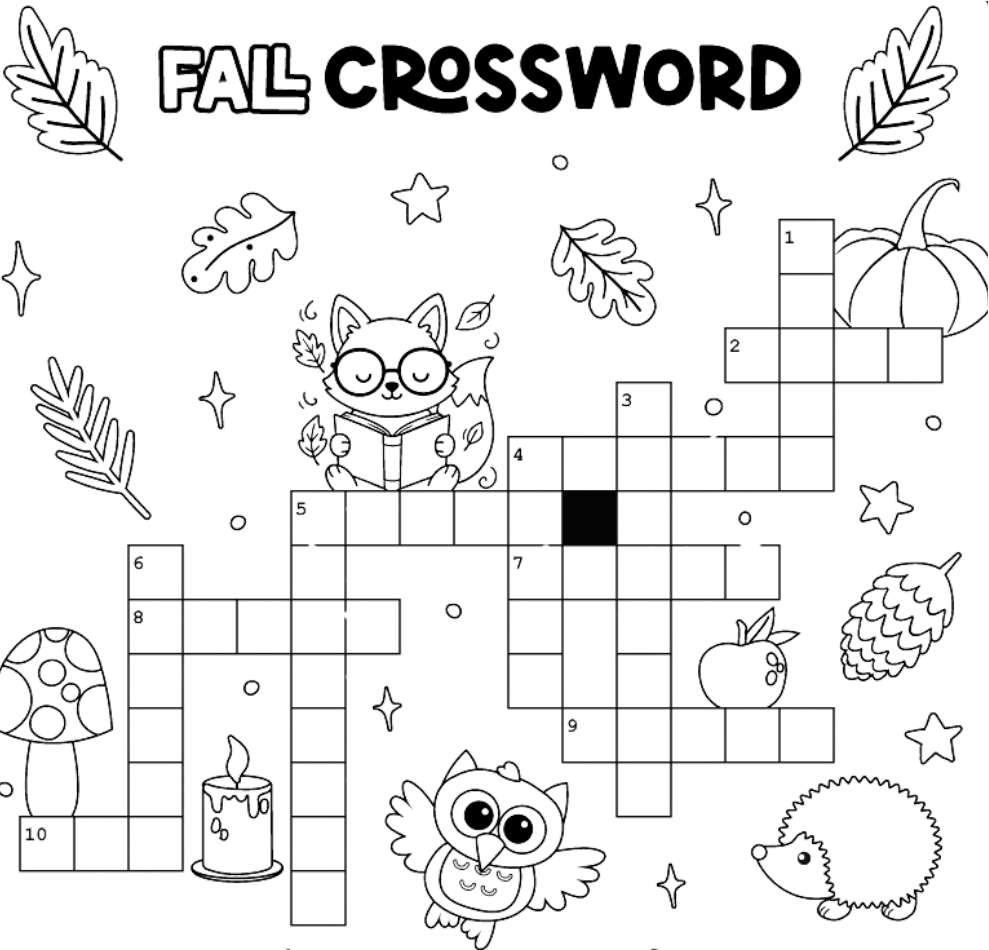


Submitted photos

The District IV FFA Discovery Camp was an exciting opportunity for House FFA members to build leadership skills, explore agricultural education, and connect with students from across the district. On September 26, junior high members participated in nine interactive workshops designed to strengthen teamwork, communication, and their understanding of the FFA organization.

One of the sessions was led by House FFA members Maddie Kenyon and Elizabeth Downey, who guided participants through activities focused on leadership development and agricultural knowledge.

The day was filled with hands-on learning, enthusiasm, and collaboration as students discovered what it means to be part of FFA and proudly represent House Schools and District IV.



ACROSS

- 2. Sound made by an owl at night.
- 4. Crops like wheat harvested in fall.
- 5. Sweet apple drink enjoyed warm or cold.
- 7. Crisp fruit picked in September.
- 8. Nut that grows on oak trees.
- 9. Cool air or crunchy apple in fall.
- 10. Thick mist covering fields on cool mornings.

DOWN

- 1. Footwear for puddles, mud, and leaves.
- 3. Outdoor fire for warmth or marshmallows.
- 4. Sauce served with mashed potatoes or turkey.
- 5. Farm attraction made from tall corn rows.
- 6. Making pies, breads, and cookies in fall.

Teacher by Day, Cow Whisperer by Night

By: Annabelle Wooldridge
Staff Writer

This journalist decided it was about time to appreciate teachers for all their hard work, so she chose one special teacher to spotlight and interview. The journalist wanted to learn more about her teaching life and a few fun facts, too!

The teacher chosen for this interview was Mrs. Lavender. The first question the journalist asked was, “Why did you want to be a teacher?” Mrs. Lavender smiled and replied, “So that I could inspire kids to have great futures.”

Next, the journalist asked, “What will your students be surprised to learn about you?” Mrs. Lavender said,

“That I have a coach voice.”

As the conversation wet on, the journalist asked, “What is one piece of advice you would give to a student?” Mrs. Lavender answered, “Never be afraid to learn something new.” Then came the next question: “What is your go-to classroom phrase?” Mrs. Lavender laughed and said, “Get what you get and don’t throw a fit and you got this!”

When asked what classroom supply she couldn’t live without, Mrs. Lavender quickly replied, “Expo markers.”

The journalist wanted to know something fun, so she asked,

“What is your secret talent outside of school?” Mrs. Lavender grinned and said, “Cow whisperer. To wrap up, the journalist asked, “What keeps you motivated even on the hard days?” Mrs. Lavender replied, “The victories.”

Her final question was, “What is the toughest challenge in teaching?” Mrs. Lavender said, “Convincing kids that they can do difficult things.”

It was a great interview full of honest answers and fun moments.

If you enjoyed reading this story, stay tuned for the next teacher spotlight!



Photos By Maddie Kenyon
Mrs. Lavender instructs her 5th grade students.

Making a Difference, One Classmate at a Time

By Kaylee Smith
Yearbook Advisor

Every day at House Schools, small acts of kindness take place that don’t always get announced or put on display, but they matter. One of the best examples of that is our Neer Peer Tutor Program.

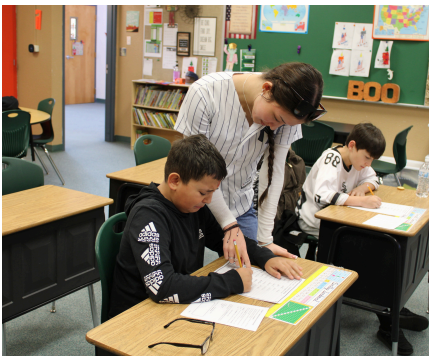
In this program, students who have already taken a class come back, not to retake it, but to help. They walk the room, check in with classmates, explain steps in a way only another student can, and offer support when someone is overwhelmed or unsure where to start. It isn’t loud or attention-seeking. It’s quiet

leadership. What makes this so meaningful is that these students are leading through kindness. They aren’t just completing tasks, they’re lifting others up. When someone is falling behind, a peer tutor is often the one who notices first. When a classmate needs encouragement, a peer tutor is right there saying, “You’ve got it. Keep going.”

They also receive payment for their work, giving them a real sense of responsibility and showing that helping

others is valuable, not just in spirit, but in practice. It’s more than a school role, it’s a small job that teaches reliability, teamwork, and maturity. The best part? You can feel the difference. Classrooms with peer tutors feel a little more supportive, a little more confident, and a lot more connected.

At House Schools, we believe leadership isn’t always about standing at the front. Sometimes, real leadership looks like sitting beside someone and helping them try again.



Submitted photos
TOP: Aimee Ross helps the 5th graders with their assignment.
BOTTOM: Maddie Kenyon helps to instruct the 2nd and 3rd grade classes.



RED RIBBON WEEK



Photos By Kaylee Smith

House Schools celebrated Red Ribbon Week the themed days included, Wake Up Drug Free – Pajama Day, Team Up Against Drugs – Jersey Day, You’ll Never See Me Doing Drugs – Camo Day, Say Boo To Drugs – Costume Day.



House Municipal Schools
309 N Apple St. House, NM 88121

Editor: Maddie Kenyon
Reporters: Elizabeth Downey,
Carter Smith, Annabelle Wooldridge,
Kahliah Quintana, Cypress Sholtz
Faculty Sponsor: Kaylee Smith

Submit photos or news to the Roundup to
ksmith@houseschools.net